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**INSIDE
THIS
WEEK:**



Garden of Reflection for Covid opens



Probe into mud on roads near development

Young girl injured after being struck by car near to school

A YOUNG schoolgirl suffered a serious facial injury when she was struck by a car in Skelmersdale.

The seven-year-old pupil at St James's Catholic Primary School sustained a fractured eye socket after being hit by a car on Ashurst Road at around 3.30pm on Friday, September 17.

The girl was taken to Ormskirk A&E and then to Alder Hey Children's Hospital for treatment to her fractured eye socket.

She was discharged on Saturday night.

In a separate incident a three month old baby had to be taken to hospital as a precautionary measure after a road traffic collision involving two vehicles at 9.20am on Friday, September 17 on Ringtail Road, Burscough.

The baby received first aid from fire crews at the scene.

Firefighters worked to make the scene safe.



Ashurst Road and St James's Catholic Primary School

GRAN'S HORROR FALL SPARKS PLEA TO FIX POTHOLED FOOTPATHS

Pensioner suffered serious facial injuries after tripping up on 'poorly maintained' path used by shoppers

Report by **Henry James**

THE daughter of a Skelmersdale pensioner, who received serious facial injuries after falling on an uneven path, has spoken out about the state of the footpaths in the town after her mum's accident.

Margaret Appleton was walking to Tanhouse on Saturday, September 18 along a footpath near to Essington Road when she fell.

The 75-year-old grandmother fell straight onto her face and has received two black eyes and severe bruising and cuts around her eyes and on her nose.

Two neighbours came to help her and she was taken to Southport hospital by ambulance and is now recovering at home. However, her confidence has been knocked by the incident and she is now fearful of walking on the pavements in the town.



Margaret Appleton following her fall

Margaret's daughter, Tracey Thompson said: "My mum fell on one of the paths going past Essington Road towards Tanhouse which is totally uneven and full of potholes. She had to be taken to Southport hospital to be treated because her injuries were that bad.

"The council are saying where she fell is 'unadopted', but this path is a main route from the

Concourse to residential areas in Skelmersdale. The picture I have supplied shows the extent of my mum's injuries."

MP Rosie Cooper was shown the pictures of Margaret following her fall and has commented that many residents have written to her about the state of footpaths and pavements in Skelmersdale.

She said: "Residents often contact me raising concerns about footpaths and pavements in Skelmersdale."

"In a town that is in dire need of improved public transport, footpaths are for many people, the only method of getting around."

"I am continually raising the awful state of the roads and pavements with Lancashire County Council who often only carry out 'patch' repairs blaming Government cuts to their budgets."

Skelmersdale County Councillor John Fillis added: "Maintenance of footpaths is a serious problem right across West Lancashire."

"At a time we are encouraging more and more people to walk and use footpaths, there is not the investment in the footpaths and also the lighting and safety of the footpaths."

"We are constantly working with a limited amount of funds. Unless we have the major support from government, we are fighting a losing battle."

Lancashire County Council has been contacted for comment.

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Concourse cash machines welcomed, but 'they are no replacement for banks'

MP says they won't make up for lost branches

Report by **Henry James**

CONCOURSE shopping centre bosses are hoping two new cash machines can be installed within the Skelmersdale complex.

West Lancashire MP Rosie Cooper was "delighted" to hear that Concourse bosses are in negotiations with a provider of ATMs to introduce the machines.

However, she added that they are "no replacement" for the lost bank branches.

Skelmersdale has been hit hard by the significant reduction of high street banking, as over the past year two major banks, TSB and Barclays, have closed their Concourse branches.

The Champion reported in April this year how MP Cooper hit out at Barclays after they opted to close its branch in the Concourse.

The local politician claimed that the banking giant did not carry out an impact statement on local people before making the decision.

Residents have been increasingly concerned about being unable to access their cash, with people experiencing long queues at the only remaining ATMs at the Halifax branch.

Ms Cooper had contacted the centre manager to share these concerns and ask what they are doing to improve access to banking services within the Concourse.

Welcoming the centre manager's response, Ms



Concourse shopping centre will get more cash machines



Cooper said: "Whilst residents will be glad to hear that the Concourse are taking steps to improve access to cash, it is very sad that these cash machines are having to replace actual bank branches."

"The shortsighted and selfish decision by Barclays and TSB to close their branches has left many across Skelmersdale without access to physical banking."

"The introduction of two more cash machines will be a benefit to the Concourse and its customers but is no replacement for a physical bank branch."

"More good news from the Concourse is that they have now reinstated the mall seating in both the upper and lower malls, after removing it because of the Covid pandemic."



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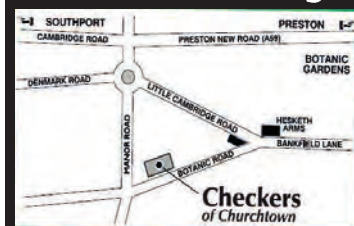


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The time capsule which includes messages and pictures from schoolchildren of what Covid-19 has meant to them.

‘Garden of Reflection’ for victims of Covid-19 opens in country park

Residents invited to plant saplings in memory of loved ones lost in the pandemic

Report by **Henry James**

A GARDEN to remember those lost through the Covid pandemic and for residents to reflect on their experiences is to be opened next week at Beacon Country Park.

A sensory area has been designed and developed within the woodlands by West Lancashire Borough Council to commemorate loved ones lost to Covid-19, and the impact the pandemic has had on the borough as well as the incredible contribution of key workers.

The aim is for the commemoration site to be a positive place of thanks and reflection with the woodland filled with flowers and colourful artwork.

There will also be a rainbow displayed on a specially commissioned wooden bench and glass artwork, designed by school children, set into wooden structures around the garden.

As a peaceful place of remembrance, the council will also be welcoming members of the community to plant a sapling in memory of loved ones lost to Covid.

Wooden hearts to inscribe and place into the hole the sapling will be planted in will also be provided.

West Lancashire Borough Council leader Councillor Ian Moran said: “This is a wonderful space for the community to reflect and remember people lost, as well as to praise our NHS and key workers.

“Filled with colour, nature, life, and community



Two of the children whose designs were selected for the glass panels.

participation, it will allow us to commemorate together and to share our thoughts and feelings about the impact of Covid-19 on West Lancashire.

“We are grateful to everyone who took part in this poignant project and hope it brings some light and comfort to the people of the borough.”

Earlier in the year, children from all schools and nurseries across West Lancashire were invited to write messages or draw pictures of what Covid-19 has meant to them. These notes were then placed into a time capsule and buried at the site.

The Garden of Reflection will be officially opened on Wednesday, September 29 at 1.15pm by the Mayor of West Lancashire, Councillor Gordon Johnson.

If any member of the public wishes to plant a sapling on the above date they are welcome to do so and are asked to contact member.services@west-lancs.gov.uk beforehand to ensure availability.

If they prefer to do this on a different date contact member services by email for further details.

Electronic messaging signs to be placed on highest-casualty roads

NEW electronic signs are being installed on Lancashire’s highest-casualty roads to make drivers think twice before doing anything to put themselves or others at risk.

The ‘Variable Messaging Signs’ can be programmed remotely to deliver information to passing traffic, making them a useful tool in the campaign to make the county’s roads safer.

Lancashire County Council recently invested in four of the mobile trailers

The location for the four signs has not been confirmed yet.

The county council and the police are now working together to coordinate deployment of the signs along roads with historically high rates of casualties, and where communities have raised concerns about safety.

County Councillor Charlie Edwards, Lancashire County Council cabinet member for highways and transport, said: “People will be used to seeing these electronic signs being used to deliver a variety of useful messages to drivers, often about roadworks or other issues on the road network.



County Councillor Rob Bailey, lead member for highways and transport, and County Councillor Charlie Edwards, with some of the signs.

“The VMS units are mobile and versatile, and with the ability to instantly change the messages via a remote system, they are proving to be a useful tool for promoting road safety and educating road users.

“We will also use them on roads where the community has raised concerns about speeding drivers.”



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Dad who used to write stories for his children now has book published

Report by Henry James

A MAN from Burscough, who used to write stories for his children is going to have one of them published after 25 years of trying.

Nick Goldsworthy, an estate agent, will have his story called Bruce, which is aimed at children aged six to eight years old, published next month.

The book follows Bruce, a young spruce tree, who must avoid his family's fate and find the perfect spot to settle if he is to realise his dream and become the King of the Forest.

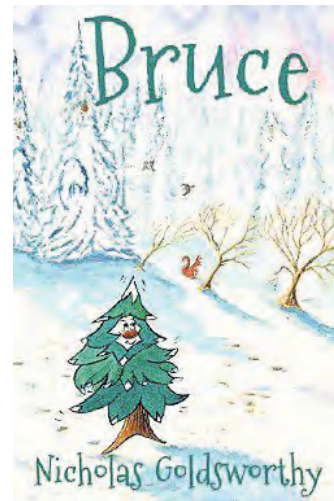
Nick said: "Bruce is just one of a number of children's stories that I have written over the last 35 years for my own children, who have thoroughly enjoyed listening to them at bedtime."

"My children are now adults with their own families and when the book is published in October they will enjoy reading Bruce to their own children."

Nick and his wife Jill have three children and three young grandsons and have lived in Burscough and nearby Scarisbrick for 26 years.

He added: "The idea of Bruce originated from my love of the countryside and putting life into a simple, Spruce / Fir tree."

"I wanted to create some magic for children to encourage their desire to respect and protect all liv-



The cover of Bruce by Nick Goldsworthy, above right.

ing things including trees.

"Bringing the Spruce Tree - Bruce to life is magical and hopefully will help children realise that trees are special and have their own individual lives."

"The ongoing annual waste of millions of trees destroyed by the gradual destruction of the environment and the demands of humans for Christmas period are also highlighted in this story."

He says the book can be used for children to study in primary schools as it shows examples of sentence structure, punctuation and a plot.

The story is available online for pupils to watch and listen to.

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The Five Ways Junction in Ormskirk.

Council to invite tenders to install hi-tech cameras at two junctions

Report by **Henry James**

DUAL-purpose traffic cameras are set to be installed next year at two junctions in Ormskirk next year to detect drivers speeding and jumping red lights.

The cameras will be at the Five Ways Junction, and at the junction of Hayfield Road and Green Lane, which is the next junction along County Road towards Burscough.

The junctions have a history of incidents with 17 collisions being recorded between January 2016 and May 2021, including one fatality.

The cameras will be funded by Lancashire County Council and the Lancashire Road Safety Partnership, with work currently getting underway to develop a detailed specification for the project in order to invite tenders this year.

Charlie Edwards, Lancashire County Council cabinet member of highways

and transport, said: "Delivering this project at the Five Ways junction is quite complex, particularly when it comes to working out how best to design and place cameras to detect infringements of traffic movements in multiple directions, and we're now embarking on the detailed specification to make sure the solution works well."

Lara Jones, safer roads unit manager for Lancashire Constabulary, said: "Our officers have had to attend a number of serious incidents at these junctions, many of which have been caused by drivers speeding, or ignoring the traffic signals."

"The risk of being involved in a collision due to the irresponsible behaviour of another driver is clearly a concern for people in this area."

"Knowing that you will face prosecution for speeding, or jumping the lights, is a strong deterrent and I'm pleased that we're well on our way to improving safety at these junctions in the near future."

Writers' Group launch anthology

SKELMERSDALE Writers' Group launched their new anthology 'Then and Now: Images of Lathom House' at the Chapel Arts Centre in Ormskirk this month.

The anthology is a collection of poetry and prose and was inspired by the colourful history of Lathom House.

It includes pieces covering seven-

teenth century events through to the present day. Local writers collaborated with the group to produce the anthology with funding from the Co-operative Bank's Customer Donation Fund.

For more information on the group contact Carol Fenlon at carolfenlon6@gmail.com or telephone 07748244711.





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Plan for future of adult social care unveiled

AN AMBITIOUS vision for the future of adult social care in Lancashire which 'puts people at the heart of every decision' has been unveiled.

It sets out a bold plan to give older people and adults with mental health needs, autism, or a learning or physical disability, the support they need to remain safe, well and independent in their own homes for as long as possible.

County Councillor Graham Gooch, cabinet member for adult social care, said: "At the heart of our vision is a desire to see everyone in Lancashire reach their full potential, by making sure that people get the support they

need when they need it, where they need it.

"We've listened to those people who use our services to make sure our focus remains on services that are integrated, innovative, responsive, and more able to plan for and meet future challenges."

"We're passionate, ambitious and determined to make a difference to the lives of the adults in Lancashire that we support."

The new vision 'Care, Support and Wellbeing of Adults in Lancashire' is backed up with a detailed strategy which includes proposals to transform how frontline staff work so they are able to spend more time with the

people who they are supporting either in their own home, or in the community, rather than spending time on administration.

In addition to supporting older people, the care provided is also about helping to support adults, whatever their age, who have a disability, or are vulnerable. The service aims to help adults retain or to regain as much independence as possible.

You can take a look at the vision document under the adult social care section of the strategies, policies, and plans page at www.lancashire.gov.uk/council/strategies-policies-plans/

How do you think we should spend CIL monies?



West Lancashire Borough Council want to know your views on how the money we are collecting from new development through the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) should be spent in 2022/23. The money we collect must be used to improve infrastructure such as parks, play areas, outdoor sports facilities, cycle paths, transport projects and community facilities which are needed because of an increased demand for them created by NEW development in the Borough.

Supporting development across the Borough

The majority of CIL monies must be used for projects across the Borough. We are saving the bulk of the monies to use on large and costly projects in the future which take time to save up for. However, each year we will use up to £200,000 to fund smaller projects across the Borough. We have put forward a shortlist of projects that the available money might be spent on in 2022/23. These projects are:

- £37,650 for the creation of an active community hub at Skelmersdale Ecumenical Centre
- £31,555 to fund the Dial-a-Ride transport service for one year, Borough-wide

Supporting development in Skelmersdale and Ormskirk

A smaller amount of CIL monies are used for projects in local areas, which are usually decided on by the parish council. In those areas without a parish council, like Skelmersdale and Ormskirk, the Council must decide what projects are awarded this Neighbourhood CIL (NCIL) local funding after consulting with local people.

This year, NCIL funding is available in Skelmersdale and we have shortlisted the following project:

- £10,760 for the installation of a mile-long track and trim trail, Ashurst

NCIL funding is also available in Ormskirk, but no schemes have been successful in being shortlisted this year. However, we welcome suggestions of infrastructure schemes that the monies could be used to fund in the future.

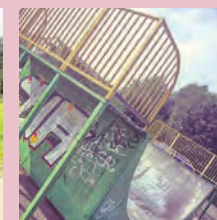
Have your say

We want to know your views on how CIL money should be spent in 2022/23. Do you agree with the projects we've shortlisted? Which projects should we choose? Are there any other projects we should consider? Your comments will help us decide what we use CIL monies on in 2022/23.

We invite comments from everyone on the Borough-wide projects. However, due to Government guidance, only those who are resident or work in Skelmersdale or Ormskirk should comment on the use of Neighbourhood CIL in Skelmersdale and Ormskirk.

Send us your comments between Thursday 23 September and Friday 22 October 2021.

To find more information, including a list of all the other schemes we have considered before making our shortlist, visit www.westlancs.gov.uk/CFP. You can give us your comments online through our easy to use consultation portal – also available at that web address.



Council offer more support for debt problems

WEST Lancashire Borough Council is launching the Get Money Fit campaign for anyone struggling with debt who needs help to manage their income and outgoings.

Budgeting for a household can be a struggle and it's easy to start to feel like things are getting out of control.

It can be difficult to know where to start and who to speak to when money becomes a real worry so it's vital that everyone is able to access the support they need.

To help, they have put together a directory of organisations who can provide support and advice.

You may also be unaware of what you could be entitled to when it comes to benefits, so they've also launched a benefits calculator and budgeting tool you can use to get an estimate of what you could be claiming to maximise your income.

Councillor Vickie Cummins, portfolio holder for Health and Wellbeing, said: "No one plans to get into debt, but a few small payday loans, or a change in circumstances can suddenly mean we find ourselves backed into a financial corner with seemingly no way out.

"The pandemic has also put further

pressure on some people due to unsecure or lost income. But help is available. If you're worrying about paying the bills, putting food on the table and building up debt, this can have a serious impact on your mental health and quality of life.

"We want to help tackle this - using things like budgeting tools and talking to the right people can be the first step to turning things around and putting you back in control of your money and your mental wellbeing."

To use the directory and budgeting tool, visit www.westlancs.gov.uk/get-moneyfit

MP slams 'cruel' plans to reduce Universal Credit

Report by **Henry James**

MP ROSIE Cooper has criticised the government's planned cut to Universal Credit.

The West Lancashire MP has criticised the government's "failure to listen to the voices of those who will be affected."

At the beginning of the first national lockdown in 2020, the government provided an 'uplift' to UC and Working Tax Credits of £20 a week - just more than £1,000 a year.

The government is to remove this at the start of October.

Ms Cooper said: "It cannot be right that the government is pushing ahead with this cruel and misguided plan.

"Universal Credit was not adequate before the pandemic, so while the uplift was a welcome piece of support for those on low incomes, the idea that it can now be safely withdrawn is simply inhumane.

"Many of my Labour colleagues in parliament made passionate and emotional appeals to the government to change course, and it is shameful that they have not.

"The government seems to think that cutting UC is necessary to get people working.

"It sounds to me like they want to starve people into work.

"The truth is that many UC claimants are already in work, but that work is so



MP Rosie Cooper

insecure and low-paid that they still require support. That should be a cause for great shame for the government.

"Thousands of my constituents will be poorer as a result of this decision.

"There is still time for the government to see sense and reverse course.

"I would encourage all those in West Lancashire who are concerned about these changes to contact my office and we will do our best to help."

Justifying the decision to cut Universal Credit, Prime Minister Boris Johnson said: "My strong preference is for people to see their wages rise through their efforts rather than through taxation of other people put into their pay packets, rather than welfare."

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‘Muddy’ roads near construction sites to be cleaned and resurfaced

County council vows to act after complaints from residents that dirt made them unusable

Report by **Danielle Thompson**

AN investigation is to take place by the county council into the state of roads around the Whalleys construction sites in Skelmersdale following complaints from drivers that they were difficult to use because the surface is covered in mud.

Residents who live nearby say the surface of Whalleys Road, Ashurst is often covered in mud, and the only alternative route is Beacon Lane, which is in a state of disrepair.

Lancashire County Council have agreed to investigate the state of the surface of roads near the sites after being contacted by West Lancashire MP Rosie Cooper.

The council has told her that action will be taken to ensure that road sweeping is continuing at the construction sites in line with the conditions set in their planning permission.

Ms Cooper said: “Not for the first time my constituents have had cause to complain about the state of the roads around the construction sites at Whalleys.

“I’ve received confirmation from the Highways Department at Lancashire County Council that they will be investigating and raising the matter with the



The Whalleys construction site in Skelmersdale.

developers who are obligated to undertake regular road sweeping to clear the mud and dust from the roads.

“The alternative route to avoid the dirt is via Beacon Lane which is in such a state of disrepair that cars are ending up with punctures, or suspension issues.

“I am pleased the county council has now scheduled in resurfacing works on Beacon Lane from the junction of Cobbs Brow Lane to Whalley Road between September 24 and 28.”

A spokesman for Lancashire County Council said: “Planning conditions are in place requiring the company responsible

for the nearby development to carry out regular cleaning of Whalleys Road.

“As a result of previous enquiries we understand that the road is swept daily, however we will investigate the issue to ensure this is still taking place effectively.

“We inspect Beacon Lane every three months, and repair any defects which meet our investigatory level of being at least 4cm deep and 15cm wide.

“However there is a resurfacing scheme planned for a section of Beacon Lane, from the junction of Cobbs Brow Lane to Whalleys Road, which will provide people with much smoother journeys.”

New nursery to open for children with additional needs

A NURSERY dedicated to children with additional needs and their siblings will open next month in Mawdesley.

Rainbow Hub is behind the new nursery, which is registered with Ofsted, and it will be run by highly trained, experienced staff for children between two and five years.

It will only operate with small groups, meaning that each child will have a greater chance and more time to develop and achieve life skills.

It will officially open on October 4 at Rainbow Hub’s base in Mawdesley.

Lyndsay Fahey, chief executive of Rainbow Hub, said: “Developing a high quality, specialised Early Years’ service will help families with a child who has additional needs who are often forgotten during those early years when they are at their most vulnerable .

“It will help families to access the government funded childcare and offer parents the opportunity for respite or even return to work.

“The number we can accommodate at any time will naturally be restricted by the specialist nature of the services and the high staff to child ratio.

“However we hope that we will be able to offer many children the opportunity to learn, develop and unlock their potential, whilst also supporting their families.”

The nursery will operate from



The nursery will be staffed by specialists

9am-4.30pm in term time and parents with children from 2 to 5 will be able to use their child care vouchers for up to 15 hours or 30 hours per week dependent on their entitlement. Costs for children paying privately will be £45 per day.

Rainbow Hub’s purpose built facility has extensive outdoor space, sensory room and soft play area and they believe that their nursery is unique in the services and environment it will offer.

Parents who would like more information about the Rainbow Hub Nursery and an assessment of their child’s needs, can register their interest and details of their child by email at nursery@rainbowhub.org; by telephone 01704 823276 or visit: www.rainbowhub.org/



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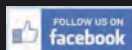
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Renewed maintenance programme could tackle underpass flooding

County council's cabinet member for highways visits town to see problem first hand

Report by **Henry James**

A RENEWED maintenance programme for subways in Skelmersdale could be on the way after county councillors, Julie Gibson and John Fillis, recently welcomed Lancashire County Council cabinet member for highways County Cllr Charlie Edwards, to Skelmersdale to see for himself the issues with the flooded underpasses.

Cllr Edwards said he will now ask for a full report "with a view to restoring a renewed maintenance programme."

Cllr Gibson said: "At the most recent Full Council I raised a question with Cllr Edwards about the continued problems with the flooding of the underpasses in Skelmersdale."

"Residents dread the onslaught of rain particularly with the increase in flash flooding that we now have. "Often, we find many residents have to cross busy roads to go about their business or get their children to school, because the underpasses are blocked and cannot be accessed. This leaves them at the mercy of busy road and oncoming traffic."

Cllr Fillis said: "We were able to raise a number of issues with Cllr Edwards such as the speeding traffic in Up Holland ward and the rest of the area and we discussed the possibility of deploying the new speed matrix signs across West Lancashire to encourage drivers to slow down."

"We also discussed the on-going work around the Skelmersdale railway station plans and we are pleased Cllr Edwards has agreed to come back to view the site when we have the latest announce-



Cllr Charlie Edwards, LCC cabinet member for highways and transport and Cllr Julie Gibson.

ment from Government."

Cllr Edwards responded: "It was a pleasure to visit Skelmersdale and meet with the local councillors and I was pleased to see at first hand the extent of the problem with the underpasses in the area."

"We have an on-going issue with the drainage system in Skelmersdale particularly as the system is at full capacity and struggles to cope with 21st century drainage problems."

"I have asked the officer team to complete a full report on all of the issues with a view to restoring a renewed maintenance programme once the report is complete."

Cllr Fillis and Gibson said: "These issues won't be fixed overnight but it is important that we have started and will continue an on-going dialogue with the Cabinet Member who has promised to keep us updated with any developments."

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Business case for town railway station put to Government by county council

MP invites transport minister to see how new rail link could benefit area

Report by **Henry James**

PLANS for a new railway line and station in Skelmersdale have taken a step forward with the county council set to submit the Strategic Outline Business Case for the proposal to the government.

The proposed transport link would ensure that Skelmersdale becomes better connected to the regional centres of Liverpool, Manchester and Preston, which the council say would open up job, education and training opportunities, as well as new leisure activities.

The county council has said it will encourage business development in the town, supporting both new and existing developments, providing a catalyst for regeneration and future investment, leading to lasting transformational change.

They added the link would also significantly contribute to decarbonisation, local air quality, healthy and active travel agendas.

Options for the new rail link would connect Skelmersdale to the existing Liverpool Central-Kirkby-Wigan Wallgate railway line with estimated costs for the project ranging from £210million to £700m.

Journey times from the town centre station options would be around 35 minutes to Liverpool Central and 18 minutes to Wigan Wallgate.

The submission to government will look for agreement to move to the next stage of the development process.

The SOBC has been developed by Lancashire County Council, working in partnership with organisations including Merseytravel, Network Rail and West Lancashire Borough Council.

The county council has also worked closely with the Department for Transport in relation to developing and finalising the SOBC and has followed their guidance to ensure that all available options have been appropriately appraised.

County Councillor Charlie Edwards, cabinet member for highways and transport, said: "This is an important stage of the highly-detailed and lengthy process which we need to go through to bring these major rail improvements for people in the town.

"Improving the public transport network will help to encourage regeneration in the area and make the town a more appealing place to live, work, visit and invest.

"By providing a high-quality sustainable public transport service, it reduces the need for car journeys, which reduces emissions and traffic levels.

"Skelmersdale is a unique part of Lancashire due to its radical design as a New Town in the 1960s. Unfortunately as the town grew, the rail link was never reinstated.

"We will be pushing the case for this and other rail



One of the new Merseyrail trains which could use Skelmersdale.

investment across Lancashire in our conversations with Government."

The previous Skelmersdale railway station closed to passengers in 1956.

The SOBC will be submitted to the Department for Transport who will decide whether to take the project forward to the next developmental stage.

West Lancashire MP Rosie Cooper said: "This is an enormous step in the fight for Skelmersdale Railway Station.

"Every resident of Skelmersdale knows how utterly revolutionary this will be for the town. It is absurd that a town with a population of close to 40,000, doesn't have a train station of its own.

"The Government are already aware of Skelmersdale's need for a train station; the Prime Minister even named Skelmersdale as one of the towns that should benefit from the Beeching reversal fund!

"I will be doing everything I can, in Parliament and locally, to ensure we receive the funding and DfT approval for this project.

"To start, I have invited the Transport Secretary to join me on a walk around Skelmersdale, so that he can truly appreciate how beneficial this project will be to the area.

"Residents of Skelmersdale understandably feel like they live on an isolated and forgotten island. "Connecting it to the rail network will be an economic explosion, opening up a wealth of social and professional possibilities.

"For far too long, Skelmersdale has been overlooked, if the Government are really committed to their 'levelling up' agenda, they will acknowledge this fact and approve this proposal without hesitation!"

Firefighters put out blaze at fish and chip shop

FIREFIGHTERS put out a blaze at a fish and chip shop in Aughton after a fire broke out in the kitchen.

Crews were called to the Aughton Chippy at around

6.45pm on Friday (September 17).

Four fire engines from Ormskirk and Skelmersdale, and Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service attended the incident.

Firefighters used four breathing apparatus, one hose reel, and a positive pressure ventilation unit to extinguish the fire.

Golfer sinks hole-in-one in competition

A GOLFER at Hurlston Hall managed to get a hole-in-one during a recent competition.

Paul Mosses, pictured, achieved the feat for the first time after enjoying the sport for 23 years.

It was on the 16th hole during a Summer Texas Scramble played on Saturday, August 21.

His playing partners were Kieran Mosses, Mark Greenhalgh and Sean Parry, and as a team they finished joint second with a score of net 53.





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Charity set up in memory of former student needs new business partner

Report by **Henry James**

A CHARITY based in Parbold, which funds ground-breaking research into the treatment and prevention of brain haemorrhages and strokes, is on the lookout for a principal business partner to support its vision.

The Natalie Kate Moss Trust was set up in 2012 following the sudden death of 26-year-old University of Manchester alumni, Natalie Moss, following a brain haemorrhage.

Natalie, from Parbold, studied Textile Design and Design Management at the university from 2004-2008.

The Natalie Kate Moss Trust is now on the lookout for a principal business partner to support it through an annual pledge of £30,000.

In return, the charity will offer the business a number of significant benefits including publicity and promotional opportunities as well as guaranteed places in a number of race events and access to the University of Manchester for PR purposes and after-dinner speeches.

Natalie's sister, Fiona Moss, co-founder and trustee of the Natalie Kate Moss Trust, said: "Most of us have been affected, either directly or indirectly, by strokes and we want to work in partnership with a business that wants to help us to fund this world class research and make a real change in the treatment and prevention of stroke worldwide."

"We also want a business partner that will see this as an opportunity to boost the team spirit of their workforce by encouraging them all to support this fantastic cause."

Earlier this year, the charity committed to raising £300,000 for the University of Manchester to fund



Natalie Moss

further research into brain haemorrhage.

This will fund the salary and running costs of a post PhD research fellow for three and a half years, within the stroke research team at the recently launched Geoffrey Jefferson Brain Research Centre.

Statistics from Brain Research UK, show that stroke occurs more than 100,000 times per year in the UK, once every five minutes. It is the fourth single leading cause of death in the UK, responsible for 35,000 deaths annually. That's a life lost every 17 minutes.

Professor Stuart Allan from the University of Manchester said: "This death rate has not changed in over 30 years, which is in stark contrast to other diseases where the death rates have dramatically improved."

"There is currently no successful treatment for haemorrhagic stroke and this is a key area of research focus for the Manchester Stroke Group."

To find out more about working with the Natalie Kate Moss Trust, visit the website: www.nataliekatemoss.co.uk or email nataliekatemoss@gmail.com.



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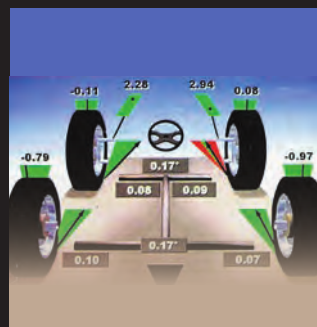
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Edge Hill is named Modern University of the Year by the Times

Report by **Henry James**



Edge Hill University

EDGE Hill University has been named Modern University of the Year, and was shortlisted for the University of the Year by The Times and Sunday Times Good University Guide 2022.

The university has risen to its highest ever position in the guide's rankings from 70th position to 58th nationally.

Founded as a teaching training college, over the last 30 years Edge Hill has expanded in recent years, with a new medical school opening last year.

It is one of the more socially diverse universities and is working with Everton FC on a mental health awareness programme called Tackling the Blues, on campus and in the community.

Alastair McCall, editor of The Times and The Sunday Times Good University Guide, said: "Ranked in its highest position yet in our academic league table, Edge Hill is one of the shining stars of the modern university sector."

"Led for nearly 30 years by John Cater, Edge Hill has established a profile nationally as a go-ahead institution with ambition for its students."

"A new medical school is the latest addition to a university estate and a course offering that is expanding all the time."

"Big gains in this pandemic-influenced year in our rankings for student satisfaction with teaching quality and their wider university experience demonstrate a university responsive to its students' needs and one capable of matching their expectations."

"After 18 months of turmoil across all walks of life, our University of the Year awards this year highlight exceptional achievement in adverse circumstances."

"For its ability to deliver in this regard, as well as long-standing achievement more widely, Edge Hill is also one of just five to make the shortlist for the overall UK University of the Year, in addition to its win as Modern University of the Year."

The Times and The Sunday Times Good University Guide 2022 provides rankings for UK universities and includes profiles on 135 universities, making use of the latest data published in the past two months.

After a year of closed campuses and a move to online learning, the new edition of the Good University Guide reveals most universities have seen a dramatic drop in student satisfaction and teaching quality scores in the latest National Student Survey.

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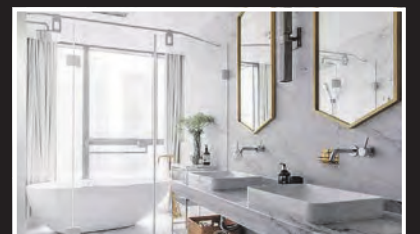
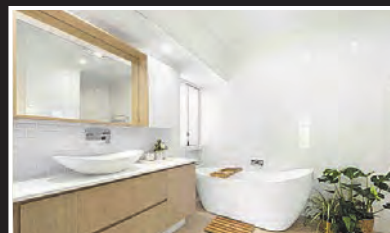
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LETTERS to the Editor

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Please support Blind Veterans UK charity

I am continually hearing about hundreds of people raising money for charities around the world.

This is good. Many people do this for charities that they hear about or read about in the media.

I have recently become one of the veterans who receive a charity's help.

The name of the charity is 'Blind Veterans UK.'

They help vets from all services, army, navy, and air forces. Also other services throughout the UK.

They have two large buildings, one in Llandudno and one in Brighton, where vets can holiday on respite.

They also help vets to teach them hobbies or a trade.

We have a regional support who is great help when needed, also local volunteers who will chat to you over the phone or visit your home and keep you company for an hour or two.

The charity also helps by supplying items to help to make life easier at your home.

They send a monthly magazine free of charge.

I myself have a lovely lady volunteer who is a very dear friend.

The reason I am bringing this to the attention of the public is that as far as I know, very few people have heard of this charity and I hope and pray that a few of these kind-hearted fundraisers will support this charity.

I myself have donated a substantial amount of my savings to the charity.

Mr Hogg,
Southport.

Sad for owners of the Barons Bar

I followed with interest your coverage of the councils cavalier road blockage and the subsequent letter from your reader.

It would appear that they have been embarrassingly outmanoeuvred by the developers and the unfortunate owners of the Barons Club are 'collateral damage.'

Shame on them!

A Phillips,
Rufford

More cameras a better way of lowering drivers' speeds

As someone who has twice had walls outside his home knocked down by drunken drivers I read the item 'Plea to lower speed limit' with considerable interest.

I fail to understand why, if as stated Moss Lane is already a 30mph zone, lowering the limit further is going to make it safer.

Surely the point is that the existing restrictions are not being adequately enforced.

We could return to days of the 'Red Flag Act' and there would still be drunks taking no notice.

All that reducing the speed limit further will do is make life more difficult for the law abiding, the drunks will continue to ignore the limit as at present.

I would suggest that more speed cameras, ideally of the 'average speed' type might be a deterrent but even better and perhaps cheaper would be physical speed devices such as those

on Red Cat Lane from Burscough to Martin Mere where the road is narrowed with alternating priorities.

Narrow Moss Lane has a long straight stretch of road making its junction with Grimshaw Lane/ Blackacre Lane/ Heskin Lane very dangerous, particularly as when trying to exit Heskin Lane, which is at an angle, it is very difficult to see what is coming down Narrow Moss Lane.

Many vehicles are still doing well over 30 when they enter the 30 mph zone.

A few areas where Narrow Moss Lane is narrowed and alternating priorities instituted might well slow traffic more successfully.

The same might equally apply to Moss Lane.

Jonathan Burke,
By email

To be kind is the most important thing in the world

In response to the recent heartfelt letter to the editor from Joan Morris, we could not agree more that the plight of those in dire need of shelter, food and basic accommodation should not and must not influence the state of our town's street lighting.

'Quote: In a world where you can be anything, be kind'

Hope you are all keeping safe and well!

Kindest Regards.
Andrew and Charlotte Blundell,

Double parking is a nightmare near schools

You were quite right to highlight selfish parking in Whalley Drive, Ormskirk.

Double parking is a nightmare anywhere but particularly near to schools.

I am aware many parents park at the Village Hall car park and walk their children from there which must be healthier and safer.

Yesterday I witnessed a school bus having to reverse through Whalley Drive between parked cars as the double parking prevented the driver going forward. (Why such a huge bus should have to drop off in the estate itself, though, beats me!)

I hope the councils can help organise better off road parking for residents too and employ traffic wardens to fine unsociable and dangerous parking.

While I'm writing, I would like to add that Town Green is a village and all roads should have a 20mph limit and enforced, before fast drivers and poor parking cause accidents.

Judy Ingman,
Whalley Drive

Good luck to Willow and all the best for her in future

I read the article about nine-year-old Willow Maddy Kirkpatrick who is doing a 12 hour walk for Macmillan Cancer Support.



I know personally of the heartache brought upon a family when a member has some form of cancer.

I had prostate cancer and had 16 days of radiotherapy at the Christie.

I am one of the lucky ones and still quite healthy 13 years later.

I still support the Christie and the Macmillan Nurses who looked after my brother only months after my wife died.

My daughter, aged now 53, also does voluntary work for Cancer Research.

She did the Lands End to John O' Groats

bike ride, the 100 mile bike ride around London, and climbed Mount Kenya, all in aid of Cancer Research.

She almost died a premature birth but is still a Miss Dynamite.

As kids we used to say, when asked which school they attended, we would reply Tommy Tomatoes.

She had a rough start in life but is now senior manager at a bank headquarters in Canary Wharf, London.

Good luck to Willow and I wish all the best for her future.

Bob Marsh,
Up Holland

CROSSWORD

Week 38.2021

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ACROSS

1. Major battle of WWI and river of northern France (5)

4. The _____ Horse, used by the Greeks to enter Troy (6)

10. Used to store food at low temperatures (6)

11. A smaller number; less (5)

12. A Dutch cheese (4)

13. Used as protection from rain (8)

15. Natural ability to make practical, sound judgements (6,5)

19. Outdated; discontinued (8)

21. Felines (4)

23. Adam _____, British Olympic swimmer (5)

24. Late; behind schedule (7)

25. Medicine; cure; redress (6)

26. Slimy substance produced by snails and other animals (5)

DOWN

2. Herb used in Italian cooking (7)

3. A labyrinth (4)

5. People who enforce the rules of a sport (8)

6. An ornament containing precious stone or stones (5)

7. A Scandinavian country (6)

8. Frequently (5)

9. A strong feeling that something unpleasant is going to occur (11)

14. In work; has a job (8)

16. New Age pop group, _____ Ballet (7)

17. Maker of barrels (6)

18. Person that directs others to their seats (5)

20. A large group of bees (5)

22. List of items available in a restaurant (4)

WORDSEARCH

This week's wordsearch theme is KITCHEN EQUIPMENT. Remember that the words can run in a straight line in any direction.

If you have enjoyed these puzzles, and would like to exercise your brain further, check out The Wheatear Book of Crosswords and The Wheatear Book of Word Searches.

Both are currently available from www.wheatearbooks.co.uk or Amazon.

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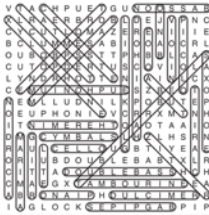
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Last Week's Solutions





Marcus hopes to inspire others to donate blood after his 400th donation

Report by **Henry James**

A MAN from Skelmersdale, who has recently completed an incredible 400 blood and platelet donations, has acted to reassure people that despite the Covid pandemic the process is safe, and he is encouraging others to come forward.

Marcus Hart believes the more the process is promoted, the better the chances of increasing the number of donors, and added demand remains high.

He said: "I have recently completed 400 blood and platelet donations and had noticed that more donors have come forward from friends and family to donate when I had chatted to them about this."

"I was very pleased that this happened but thought it might be worth encouraging others to come forward as well, who may not have done so before or who have not donated for a while."

"It is so important as it can save someone's life. It also gives a great feeling of giving something back to others at their time of need and it's relatively easy to do."

"In addition it is worth mentioning it is safe to donate even with the Covid pandemic as all the relevant procedures are in place when donating."

Marcus started donating blood 25 years ago at Ormskirk Civic Centre after seeing a poster at work asking for blood donors.

He added: "After donating whole blood for a few times, I was told I had a high platelet count and would like to become a platelet donor."

"I didn't know what platelets were at the time, but found out they were tiny fragments of cells made in the bone marrow and released into the blood stream in the same way as red blood cells."

"Those with leukaemia or other cancers may have too few platelets as the result of their disease or treatment. Also after major surgery or extensive



Marcus Hart at his 400th donation at Tanhouse Community Centre

injury patients may need platelet transfusions to replace those lost through bleeding.

"Platelets can be donated more frequently than whole blood."

"More recently, I have reverted back to whole blood and have donated at the DW football ground in Wigan and more recent donations have been at Tanhouse Community Centre."

"I've come across so many wonderful donors during that time, many who have donated a lot more times than I have and just feel it's worth getting the message out to increase the awareness and huge importance of doing something that can be a life saver for someone."

Residents offered free help to improve CVs

RESIDENTS in Skelmersdale will be given free advice on improving their CV at a workshop event this Friday (September 24).

As latest government figures show that the economy has more jobs than prior to the pandemic, local residents are being encouraged to ensure they put their best foot forward if applying for a new job.

Tawd Valley Developments has teamed up with a raft of local suppliers that are helping it build more than 80 new council homes for local people in Skelmersdale to lend their expertise to job-seekers.

Mark Kitts, managing director, says it's part of the company's desire to ensure that the benefits of its investment 'go beyond mere bricks and mortar.'

"Seeking a new job in a changing landscape like today can seem daunting if someone hasn't done it for a while, or if they're new to the labour market. Our workshop is designed to give them the confidence and knowledge to project themselves well to a potential employer," explained Mr Kitts.

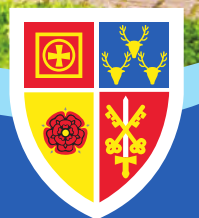
"This event follows our successful Meet the Employer day held in May this year where the TVD and Whitfield & Brown teams, together with West Lancs Council and College staff met with local businesses and local young people."

The workshop runs from 9am to 3pm on Friday, September 24 at Greenhills Community Centre on Beech Close. In attendance will be advisers from recruitment consultant Hays as well as design and construction specialists from Whitfield & Brown, Shape Consulting Engineers, John McCall Architects and property advisers Savills.

Staff from West Lancashire Borough Council will also be available to help.

"There is a huge choice of careers in the construction sector and many people don't realise that they have transferrable skills that can give them an 'in' to our industry," said Helen Atherton of builders Whitfield & Brown.

"Just by talking with us and exploring options and opportunities we can help signpost people to a rewarding career. I'm looking forward to meeting as many people as possible on the day."



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What would make you more likely to take the bus?

Report by **Henry James**

LANCASHIRE County Council is asking people to say what would make them more likely to choose to catch the bus by completing an online survey.

An ambitious plan to improve bus services is already underway which could result in, "simpler, cheaper fares, consistent high-quality information about services in more places, and more efficient and frequent services in the evenings and weekends".

This is due to a major change in the way they are funded and organised, with the government's new National Bus Strategy requiring councils and bus operators to work more closely together, and alongside local communities, to create a network that people want.

It could mean much higher levels of investment in buses in the future, but first the county council needs to produce a Bus Improvement Plan which sets out Lancashire's priorities.

County Councillor Charlie Edwards, cabinet member for highways and transport, said: "The government's new strategy for buses is an opportunity to create a network which works better for passengers, and makes catching the bus a more attractive option for everyone."

"They have set aside £3billion for the programme over the current parliament, with the potential for Lancashire to get a lot more funding than we are at the moment, and make some really big improvements to services across the county."

"The focus is on improvements being locally-led, with councils and transport operators working closely together, and with communities, to create a more cohesive set of services, and agree where investment should be prioritised."

"Depending on what people want, it



The bus survey is now open

could mean having lower fares, simpler ticketing options, more services especially during evenings and weekends, better timetable information, and measures to make services quicker and more reliable, such as bus-only lanes, and using technology to improve services.

"The first step is for us to gather some information about how people would like to see services improved, and I'd be grateful if people take a few minutes to complete our quick online survey."

"It will help us to make a strong case about what we could achieve with more funding, and how we would use this funding to attract more people to become regular users of their local bus."

Feedback from the survey will be used to help the county council produce a Bus Improvement Plan, by the end of October, which sets out what buses are currently like in Lancashire, and how to reduce some of the barriers to bus usage and growth.

This will inform an Enhanced Partnership Plan and Scheme, an agreement between the county council and operators about how services will operate from April 2022, and how improvements will be delivered in the coming years.

The survey is open until September 30.

To take part go to www.lancashire.gov.uk/roads-parking-and-travel/public-transport.

Volunteers needed for school admission appeals panels

VOLUNTEERS are needed to help to decide on appeals by parents and carers for school places.

Lancashire County Council is looking to recruit people from a diverse range of backgrounds and experience to join its independent appeals panels.

These panels are set up to consider appeals from parents who have missed out on their preferred school.

When a child is refused a place at a school or academy of their preference, they are entitled to appeal against the decision.

Panel members will consider the reasons for the parents' preference of school, as well as the reasons why a

place hasn't been allocated, and make a decision as to whether the refusal should be upheld or overruled.

Each panel is made up of three people. This includes someone with no paid experience of education, known as a lay member, and also someone with experience such as a teacher, or governor.

A trained clerk will advise on legal and administrative issues. Each of the panel members must be independent of the authority, school and the families involved.

Appeals take place throughout the year, but the majority are held between May and August. The appeals are arranged so that they are heard for half

a day or a full day depending on the number needing to be decided.

There may be occasions when panel members will be required to be available for a full week.

Currently hearings take place by virtual means including telephone and video conference.

No formal qualifications are required but applicants must be available during the day (Monday to Friday), willing to attend regular panel meetings and willing to undertake training.

To find out more, or to request an application pack, please contact the Appeals Team on 01772 536776 or email appeals@lancashire.gov.uk



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Martin Mere news

ADVERTISING FEATURE



Free Entry for Goose Spectacular

The nights are drawing in and that can only mean one thing: the Pink-footed Geese, or pinkfeet, are returning to Martin Mere. There is just a small trickle of birds at the moment, but, within the next couple of weeks, numbers will start to build into the hundreds, the thousands and then the tens of thousands.

Every evening throughout October, the birds fly in to roost at Martin Mere, providing what is one of the best wildlife spectacles in the UK. In order to allow local residents the opportunity to see the geese coming in, Martin Mere will once again be open free of charge, from 5.30pm to 7pm on Wednesdays and Saturdays throughout October. The sight of up to 50,000 pinkfeet landing on the mere in front of a glorious sunset is something not to be missed.

The pinkfeet breed in Iceland and eastern Greenland and also in Svalbard, in the Arctic Ocean. The Icelandic and Greenland populations return to Britain to spend the autumn and winter, whereas the Svalbard population winters in the western parts of continental Europe. Around 200,000 pinkfeet spend the winter in Britain every year.

As we move through September, the geese will start to congregate in large groups in southern

Iceland waiting for the optimum conditions to fly south to Britain. When we see a north wind blowing from the arctic in late September and October, we know we will get large numbers of geese arriving at Martin Mere, as they take advantage of a strong wind behind them.

The geese do not all come at once and there is a stream of them throughout October, with Martin Mere being an important stopover, a bit like an avian motorway services. Many of the birds will rest up for a few days, or even a few weeks, and then continue to North Norfolk, where more than 100,000 birds feed in the arable farmland on post-harvest cereal stubbles and sugar beet tops. However, many of the birds will actually stay throughout the winter in the North West, with up to 50,000 in West Lancashire and on the Fylde.

We have been monitoring the populations of pink-footed geese for over 20 years. So, if you'd like to find out more about the birds please visit our website at <https://monitoring.wwt.org.uk/our-work/goose-swan-monitoring-programme/species-accounts/WWT.org.uk> and remember to pay us a visit this autumn for a sight you will not forget.



Visit the web site www.wwt.org.uk/martinmere to find out what's on the reserve at the moment as well as all the upcoming events

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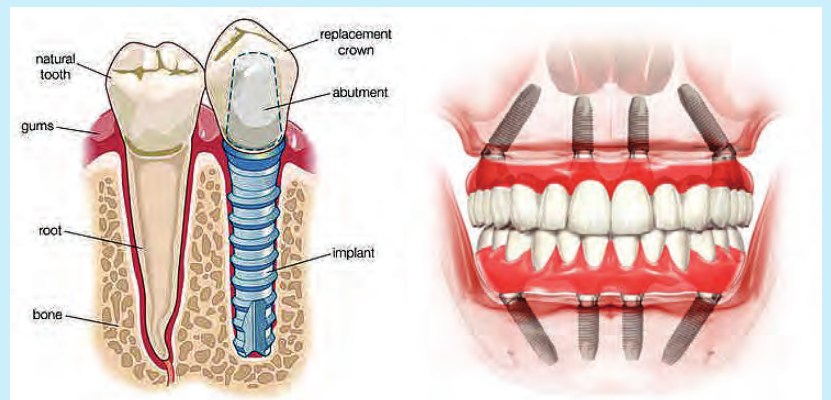
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Art teacher who is used to helping others is to hold her own exhibition

Report by **Tom Martin**



Amanda Clark-Price

AN artist from Burscough who specialises in abstract art will have her work displayed in her own exhibition.

Amanda Clark-Price's distinctive artwork will be on display at the ArtHouse, on Eastbank Street, Southport, from September 29 to October 9.

Amanda has always been keen to pass her skills onto others at her classes at Southport Contemporary Arts and in online workshops.

After many years developing artwork in others, Amanda is now really enjoying having the space to focus on producing her own distinctive work for the exhibition.

She said: "I had always produced artwork to support my teaching practice but now have the time to develop work for myself."

"Most of the work in this exhibition is abstract in nature. I wanted to explore layers, colours and mixing of media."

"I use drawing, collage, print, acrylic, watercolour, papier-mâché, pencil and pen in my mixed media pieces and I also enjoy 'just' pencil".

Recently, Amanda joined with the Ainsdale Discovery Centre as part of the national 'Back From the Brink' programme with their own 'Gems in the

Dunes' project along the Sefton coast.

She said: "I ran three online workshops during lockdown designed so that people who had little or no art equipment and materials could take part."

"One was drawing just using pencil and kitchen roll or tissue, another painting with coffee and the last one scribbling with black pen. We had some great results. I supplied images of the dunes at Ainsdale and we completed the work over Zoom."

The ArtHouse is open from Tuesday to Friday from 10am-3pm and Saturday from 11am to 4pm.

Running Club marks third anniversary

MEMBERS of the Southport Strollers Running Club have celebrated their third birthday!

A spokesperson for the club said: "We began in September 2018 with approximately 20

people coming to a new club for the first time.

"We celebrated with half of our 125 members, with cake and alcohol free fizz after our regular social Tuesday running session of either 4k

(running or run/walk), 5k or 7k group at the Splashworld car park.

"The ethos of our club has always been to celebrate the personal achievements of every running member."

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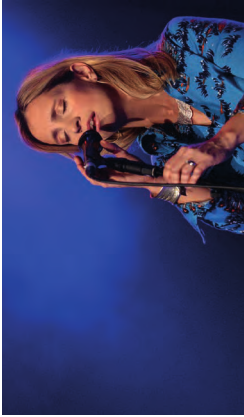


All listings correct at the time of printing

What's On

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THEATRE & STUDIO



Cara Dillon
01 October 2021, 7.30pm



Twist & Shout
02 October 2021, 7.30pm



Simply Dylan: A Tribute to Bob Dylan
06 October 2021, 7.30pm



Seven Drunken Nights: The Story of The Dubliners
07 October 2021, 7.30pm



Clinton Baptiste Goes Stratospheric
08 October 2021, 7.30pm



Southport Blues, Rhythm & Rock Festival
10 October 2021, 2pm



Dirty Dusting
16 October 2021, 7.30pm



T.Rextasy
20 October 2021, 7.30pm



Oh! What A Night
23 October 2021, 7.30pm



How the Koala Learnt to Hug
26 October 2021, 2.30pm



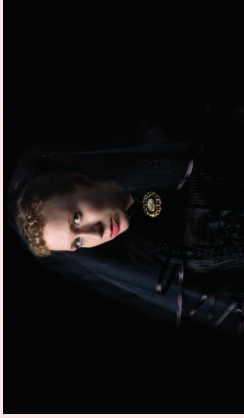
Pop Princesses
27 October 2021, 5pm



Dave Spikey: A Funny Thing Happened...
29 October 2021, 7.30pm



Ian Prowse & Amsterdam
29 October 2021, 8pm



Female Gothic
30 October 2021, 8pm



Rob Newman's Philosophy Show
03 November 2021, 7.30pm



A Pleasing Terror: Two ghost stories by M R James
04 November 2021, 8pm



Not: Lady Chatterley's Lover – A parody of Lady Chatterley's Lover by DH Lawrence
04 & 05 November 2021, 7.30pm



Bowie Experience
06 November 2021, 7.30pm



Totally Tina
13 November 2021, 7.30pm



Paul Zerdin: Hands Free
15 November 2021, 7.30pm



The Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde
19 & 20 November 2021, 7.30pm



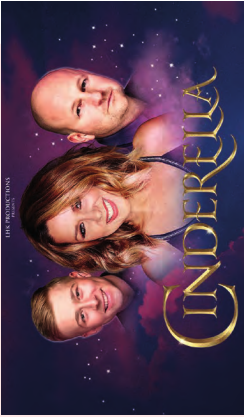
Jay Foreman's Disgusting Songs for Revolting Children
20 November 2021, 2.30pm



Santa's Best Christmas Ever
26 November 2021, 1pm & 4pm



Maddy Prior & The Carnival Band
30 November, 7.30pm



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EXHIBITIONS - FREE ENTRY



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26 June – 23 October 2021



Courage & Devotion
26 June 2021 – 12 March 2022



Red Rum
03 July – 30 October 2021



Captain Pugwash & Friends
31 July – 23 December 2021

Late penalty drama as Skem forced to settle for a point

Skelmersdale United 2
Wythenshawe Town 2

THERE was late penalty drama at both ends as Skelmersdale United thought they had won it with an 88th minute goal from a spot kick, only for Wythenshawe Town to equalise deep into injury time with their own penalty, **writes Neil Leatherbarrow.**

Drama ruled in the last few minutes at the JMO Sports Park on Saturday, with two promotion chasing teams going neck to neck for the whole game.

Victory would have put Skelmersdale into second position in the North West Counties Premier Division table and they still have two games in hand.

Wythenshawe took the lead on 14 minutes. Matthew Bryan found himself in space behind the Skem left-back and found Brad Byrne in space to rifle home.

Skelmersdale didn't waste time responding when Adegbenro ran in behind the Wythenshawe back line and hit a low shot into the far corner to equalise on 16 minutes.

The second-half was not as expansive and no doubt both teams had spent the interval sorting out their defences.

In the 75th minute Byrne crossed from the right and the Skem defence cleared the ball, only to see a raised assistant's flag.

After a discussion with the referee a penalty was given. There had been no appeal or shout from Wythenshawe and no one could actually definitively work out why it was given. However, it didn't matter as Byrne put the penalty kick wide.

The real drama came on 88 minutes. Richard Brodie played a wonderful through ball that split

the Wythenshawe defence. Howard ran in from the left and looked to have a prime opportunity around 15 yards out in a central position, however Dean Smalley rushed in with a last ditch challenge, missed the ball and fouled Howard. It was an absolutely nailed on penalty.

Dean Smalley was administered a red card and Brodie lined up the spot kick. Keeper Bacon dived to his right and saved, but the other assistant on the opposite side raised his flag and the penalty was retaken because keeper Bacon had left his line. Brodie made no mistake with his second attempt, 2-1 to Skem.

It looked like Skem were going to win, but Wythenshawe had other ideas. They piled men forward and played every ball right into the Skelmersdale penalty area.

With four minutes of added time gone, Jan Palinkas went down and again the assistant raised his flag for a penalty.

Up stepped Byrne and this time he found the net to make it 2-2 with hardly time left to kick-off.

On the balance of the whole game a draw was probably a fair outcome. Two very good teams who are genuine promotion contenders had been very evenly matched.

The result isn't crucial in September but if the two are near to promotion at the end of April and they might be, the referee's assistants will be remembered by many for their actions.

Next match: Skelmersdale face a trip over to South Yorkshire this Saturday to take on Northern Counties East Division One side Rossington Main in the FA Vase Second Qualifying Round.

On Tuesday, September 28 Skelmersdale return to league action when they travel to Irlam.

Linnets extend winning run to four matches

Runcorn Town 2
Burscough 3

BURSCOUGH extended their winning run to four games after coming out on top of a five goal thriller against Runcorn Town.

Two goals from Josh Quarless and a strike from Declan Daniels saw the Linnets climb to just two points behind local rivals Skelmersdale United.

The Linnets grabbed the lead after only four minutes, Daniels converting from a Michael Ordish free-kick.

Runcorn equalised in the twelfth minute with a diving header from Ryan Cox.

Moments before the half-hour mark Runcorn took the lead, Holsgrove's corner from the right caused havoc, hitting the far post before rebounding straight into the net.

Burscough regrouped and started the second-half well.

Two goals in six minutes by Quarless turned the game Burscough's way.

In the 56th minute the big forward put in a shot from 30 yards and keeper McGovern



Runcorn on the attack against Burscough on Saturday.

couldn't clear it to make it 2-2.

Then on 62 minutes, Quarless challenged McGovern for the ball and turned the ball into the empty net to get the third and winning goal.

The remainder of the game saw Runcorn pushing to salvage the game, but Burscough defended well.

Next match: Burscough will host fellow North West Counties Premier Division

side Irlam this Saturday in the FA Vase second qualifying round.

Irlam reached the latter stages of the competition last season and will be set on repeating the achievement this year.

Burscough travel to Lower Breck on Thursday, September 30 for an 8pm kick off. The Anfield-based side are two points ahead of the Linnets in the league table.

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The team after the event with Roy, the Burscough Archers club secretary and coach at centre.

NHS staff enjoy archery offer for team building

Report by Henry James

BURSCOUGH Archers organised a team building session for some local NHS staff who wanted to enjoy something different for a team building day.

Karen Knowles, head of Orthoptics and Optometry at Southport & Ormskirk Hospital Trust was looking for a team-building exercise for her team of ten specialists who typically work across the two sites.

They can go weeks without face-to-face interaction.

So, when she saw the announcement in the local NHS house journal of Free Archery Taster sessions for NHS staff delivered by Burscough Archers, she decided to sign her team up for it.

On a sunny September session her team joined the Burscough Archers' coaches and experienced archers who delivered one hour of archery, one-to-one.

This was the second free taster event for NHS staff and during the session, as a diversion, the archers added three balloons to each target face.

Jade, the youngest member of the team, 'killed' the three balloons with her first three arrows after they went up.

Karen summed up her feelings about the session by saying: "After a challenging time, it has been amazing to have the opportunity to rest and reset."

"All the staff at our Trust go above and beyond for their patients so it was lovely to be able to arrange this session for our team."

"Covid and cross-site working has limited what contact we can have for such a long time, so the Burscough Archers outdoor session was ideal for this."

"The weather was lovely, and all the coaches were so knowledgeable and patient. We would like to thank each one of you — such a lovely experience and surprisingly so relaxing. Thanks again!"

For more information about Burscough Archers, visit www.burscougharchers.org.uk.

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ADVERTISING FEATURE

direct4baby

'Special Baby Event in Liverpool with Amazing Giveaways!'

One of the UK's fastest-growing baby retailers has opened a brand new showroom on Aintree Racecourse Retail Park, Liverpool.

Direct4Baby will be officially opening on Thursday 23RD September and will be kicking off in style by hosting a 'Huge In-Store Baby Event'.

The Direct4Baby event is a one-stop-shop for products, services and advice. Compare, try and buy products and enjoy exclusive deals on the day from our well-known brands such as Bugaboo, Maxi-Cosi, iCandy, Silver Cross, Cybex, Oyster, Joie, Joolz and many more.

You can also hear from local baby and parenting experts with sessions running throughout the day on preparing for birth, sleep and baby development to support you and help you make informed parenting choices.

With plenty of freebies and giveaway drawers to enter, there's so many reasons to get yourself down to our Aintree store this Thursday.

- The event will run 9am-9pm (no appointments necessary)
- Amazing goody bags
- Product giveaways including our incredible iCandy Cerium competition worth £1300, which must be won on the day!!
- Free Refreshments



that customers can benefit from a personalised shopping experience and convenient checkout system. Customers shopping online can also take advantage of Direct4Baby's new click-and-collect services at the Liverpool showroom.



Co-founder of Direct4Baby David Ball, said: "As a family-run business, being able to offer a personal experience is a priority for us. Prams, car seats and nursery furniture are some of the most important purchases for any new parent and our feedback has consistently been that it is something that they want to see, test, touch and feel before purchasing.

"We appreciate that it's a challenging time for traditional retail right now, but we firmly believe that customers still want to be able to explore a physical product in a safe environment - and that's where our showrooms come in. The new Aintree showroom is now our flagship store and we can't wait to welcome customers from all over the North West and beyond."

The new store is open 7 Days a Week. 9:30am-8:00pm Monday-Friday, 9:30am-6:00pm on Saturdays and 11:00am-4:00pm Sunday.

Appointments at both the Aintree and Ormskirk stores can be booked online at direct4baby.co.uk.



The showroom space displays over 100 prams, car seats and travel systems from premium baby brands including Bugaboo, Silver Cross, iCandy, Joie, Mima, Joolz, Maxi-Cosi and more. This will allow customers to try before they buy and experience live product demonstrations from trained technicians. A professional car seat fitting service is also available at the store.

The store is Direct4Baby's second (with the first located in nearby Ormskirk), and features 1-1 appointment services and interactive digital kiosks so

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5 days £339

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4 days only £399

Thursday 30th December

Includes:

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*Cairn Hotel

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Mon 1st November

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Mon 27th December

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HOTEL

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(Weekend Break)

Fri 21st January

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*Salutation Hotel-Perth

Burns Night Supper

(Harrogate & York)

Sat 22nd January

2 days £105

*1 night Bed & Breakfast

*Cairn Hotel - Harrogate

Creative Craft Show

NEC Birmingham

Sat 6th November

Day excursion £32

DAY	EXCURSIONS for SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER	Pick Up	
Sun 26th	Cotswolds Circular	L	£27.00
	Blackpool & Tour of Illuminations	S	£23.00
Tue 28th	Lichfield Market & National Mem Arboretum	L	£24.00
	Colwyn Bay & Llandudno	S	£21.00
Wed 29th	Blackpool & Tour of Illuminations	L	£23.00
Thu 30th	Kendal & Ulswater Cruise	L	£34.00
	Portmeirion & Llangollen	S	£36.00
Fri 1st	Fleetwood Market & Freeport	L	£21.00
Sat 2nd	Blackpool & Tour of Illuminations	L	£23.00
	The World Famous Bury Market	L	£20.00
Sun 3rd	Autumn Tints in the Lakes	L	£24.00
	Yorkshire Dales & Wensleydale Cheese	S	£29.00
Mon 4th	Bakewell Market	L	£24.00
Tue 5th	Llangollen & Horse Drawn Canal Cruise	L	£27.00
Wed 6th	Buxton & Upper Peak Canal Cruise	S	£42.00
	Market Drayton & Shrewsbury	L	£23.00
Thu 7th	Ripon Market	L	£24.00
Fri 8th	Fleetwood Market & Freeport	S	£21.00

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BIKES

GIRLS BIKE 20inch wheels full mudguards a very nice looking bike hardly been used photos available on Watts app £45 07741206449

LADIES BIKE In good working order just no longer needed 26inch alloy wheels 21speed lightweight frame £75 07741206449

CLOTHING

GENTS OVERCOAT A Hardy Amies design, blended wool and mohair. Dark blue in colour three quarter length medium to large £29 07387439004

GENTS SUIT NEW gents suit which still has labels on from Next, 36 inch waste, regular leg, jacket cost £130 £59 07387439004

LADIES SHOES Ten pair of NEW ladies shoes all good makes, size 6. M&S, Clarks please note From £5 pair 07387439004

MENS TROUSERS Seven pair, with turn ups, 34" waste, 29" leg. All good makes and quality. Absolute bargain at £20.00 the lot 07387439004

BLACK WELLIES size 7 white flower pattern bought B&Q never worn £10. 3 pairs M&S pumps size 7 never worn £10 01704224947

JACKET mens Peter Storm jacket, large 42" chest hardly worn £10 Cotton Traders waterproof lightweight jacket, large mens £8 01704547066

LADIES COAT faux fur, black fur lined plus cuffs and collar, size 12, unworn still with labels £25 01695578218

LADIES SMART dresses, 2 M&S, 1 Jaeger, knee length size 14, 2 grey 1 Navy, short sleeved sleeveless hardly worn £30 01704 224947

CLOTHING

M&S Ladies beige jacket size 16 worn twice £15. Wallis black ladies jacket office type hardly worn £10 01704 224947

SHOES 3 pairs Van Dal shoes size 7, wide fit all unworn £20 a pair or 3 pairs £45 07725940315/01695322235

WEDDING HAT navy, lovely. Worn once £15. Navy court shoes size 7 worn once for wedding £10 01704 224947

TED BAKER Girls dress aged 14. Navy flower print, worn once, excellent condition. Can send photo. Formby £30 07798 580356

WALKING BOOTS ladies Brasher boots size 37 £20. mens Scarpa boots size 45 £15 07762 078984

GENTS SHOES size 10 wide fit, Grey moccasin type with laces not leather brand new and boxed never been worn £12 01704220356

COMPUTING

EPSON PRINTER XP 3100 expression, home wi-fi £15ono. 07905 677774

MICROSOFT KEYBOARD wireless, comfort including mouse, hardly used £10. 01704 892018

TINY DESKTOP computer plus extras free 07756 323460

DELL COMPUTER Desktop PC intel i5, 8gb ram, Windows 10pro. Samsung 24inch LED Monitor, keyboard and mouse. WiFi receiver. Excellent condition £200 07876701547

DIY

CARPENTERS wood planes. one 22 inches long one 7 inches long. 50/60 years old. £10 01704 501897

DIY

HAMMER DRILL Metabo KHE7S 110V SDS rotary, 110V extension lead, 110V transformer, 2 outputs. 110V Makita 5" angle grinder £110. 01704 220893

LADDER CLAMPS for roof rack, pair as new £8 07903824211

LIGHTWEIGHT LADDERS triple section, vgc, half price £60, buyer collects (banks area). 01704 224947

MATT EMULSION little Greene paint 5ltr indian yellow unopened matt emulsion cost £72 sell for £40 07376383809

WALLPAPER super fresco by Graham and Brown, 6 rolls same batch. £20 01704 501897

"G" CRAMPS Record 120 - 10" 1no. Record120 - 12" 4no. £30.00 each or £130 the lot. 07786 552897

AL - KO Heavy duty table saw 240 volt, 10" TCT blade, table extension, sliding mitre fence, rise, fall & tilt, adjusting spanners. £120.00 07786 552897

MIXER SALE Electric Concrete Mixer, VGC £80. Trailer 5ft x 3ft, Aluminium sides and base (light) £100. Selection of electric tools prices start £5 07432064192

TRAILER SALE Trailer 5 x 3ft, Electric Concrete mixer and Large power tools for sale 07432064192

DULUX PAINT 7.5 ltr vinyl matt wall and ceiling paint. Warm, pale lilac colour same as B&Q Valspar X85 code. Southport. £20 07961834992

FRANK HEATING Tank £40 07741206449

HEAVY DUTY Tow rope brand new never been out of the box £10 07741206449

GARDENING

FENCE PAINT 20 Litre tin. Cuprinol Autumn Brown colour. Unopened as amount over-ordered. Colour can be seen on painted fence. £25 01515265755

GARDEN VACUUM

Flymo electric blower and collect with bag £30 01704570107

COMPOST CONVERTER 330 ltr bottom diameter 36" height 37" VGC black plastic heavy duty £10 01704 541714

GARDEN POND Bermuda semi rigid 6ft x 4ft approx, pond pump, fishmate 3000, seen working both £60 01704 566104

GREENWORKS LAWNMOWER gmax 40 v battery 41cm cut, one year old, cost £330 new sell at £125. 07905 677774

LEAF BLOWER and vacuum, with all accessories, very good condition £30 07903824211

QUALCAST MOWER Suffolk Punch 43s petrol mower with roller and grass box, suitable for restoration or spares. £25.00 07786 552897

CORRUGATED HOSE Black for pond 5m long 38mm dia 07724 874347

HOBBIES

CARD MAKING Fiskars Shape-Boss and selection of Punches plus Light Box. Also Purple Cows Cutter. All in excellent condition. £35 07874685513

CROCHET BLANKETS Assorted sizes vintage handmade thick crochet blankets between £20-£50 for craft fairs, car boot and your own bed/chair 01704570107

2 X JOHNNY CASH RECORDS 'The Great Johnny Cash' 'Johnny Cash America' 200 year £8 More records for sale no rock 07387439004

GOLF BOOKS Two hard back books. 'Skills and Techniques' and 'Great Golf Courses and History'. Both for £5 07387439004

LAND ROVER MAGAZINES A selection of 19 old magazines in good condition, 2010(1) 2012(3) 2013(5) 2014(8) 2015 (1) 2016(1) All for £9 07387439004

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HOBBIES

OIL PAINTING Original on canvas oil painting 21x18, in very good condition. Artist is H Feldner, cost £190 when purchased. Bargain £50 07387439004

VIDEO TAPES 17 tapes in all, including John Wayne, Cagney, Hope, Jolson, Elvis, Bet Davis, Sinatra, Redford, £10 07387439004

FOOTBALL SHIRTS programmes ticket stubs etc wanted for private collector cash paid 07773242918

BLACKS safari camp beds £5 each 01704 576122

CAMPING STOVE like new in carry case £6 01704 501897

FENDER BLACK Acoustic guitar excellent condition hardly used Gemini 3 1987 collectors item serial 337 carry bag £75 07741 208268

MINI BLOWLAMP microflame £10. thin copper sheet 2ftx2ft £5. caravan extension mirrors £2.50 Caravan TV aerial 10ft pole, long aerial lead £5 01704 227147

PARKER 52CC Brush Cutter brand new boxed unopened. Full price £109 Bargain £70 07935 499658

RAILWAY PRINTS four old railway carriage prints 25.75" by 11" all in original wooden frames, provenance provided on enquiry, very collectible £280 01695578218

TRESPASS TENT 2 man pop up, pink, very good condition, hardly used £15. 01704 224947

1935 SINGER electric sewing machine model 99 C/W manual, needles & bobbins, excellent condition - collectors item. £50.00. 07786 552897

MILITARIA Medals, badges, helmets, uniforms, equipment, gas masks, souvenirs, home front etc for local enthusiast. Cash available 07547138998

EXERCISE BIKE Roger black gold bike as new was hardly used cost £350 last year £225 ono 07516540357

FISH TANK 150 litre tank in as new condition complete with light filter & heater only few months old £100 07516540357

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HOBBIES

ADMEAL AO Parallel motion bar complete with large wooden drawing board. £35.00 01695 364082

HOME ENTERTAINMENT

CASIO KEYBOARD CTK401 100 songbank model. Excellent condition, in original box. Works on mains or batteries, charger/batteries supplied. Skelmersdale area. £25 ono. 07922883002

SAMSUNG GALAXY Young 2 smartphone handset, white with chrome trim on the O2 or Tesco network. Excellent used item : £15 07756 733748

75 CDS various artists, inc Red hot CP, the strokes, Blur etc ideal for car boot £15ono. 01704 224947

GRUNDIG Radio gram for sale in good condition mahogany colour plus collection of vinyl records £65 ono 0151 9338418

ORION analogue TV video combi, plays video. Boxed with all accessories £45 01704 501897

PIONEER DVD/CD receiver xv-dv222 DTS Dolby Pro Logic 5:1 surround sound excellent condition £50 ono 07740 150973

CD PLAYER Ariston acoustics CDX 720 good condition £15 07876701547

SAMSUNG 8KTV 65inch smart 8K QLED TV QE65Q700T (see Argos for details) Excellent. Genuine reason to sell. Only 5 weeks old. 2 remote boxed etc Bargain!!! £1500!! 07564 338266

TV/DVD 22" Neon 22"LCD TV with DVD Good Little tv for kids or spare room £35 07564 338266

LEAK TUNER H J Leak troughline 3 fm tuner, excellent condition in wooden sleeve, best of the Leak tuners. £50 07504888423

WHARFEDALE TUNER Wharfedale stereo tuner in excellent condition & working order, midi size £20 07504888423

HOUSE AND HOME

BOOKCASE CORNER UNIT light wood £20 ono 07747686903

HEAD & FOOTBOARD John Lewis Jayne Antique brass & White, Double Head & Footboard ONLY Brand New in Box, Bargain £65. 07980 162415

HOUSE AND HOME

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STAIR CLIMBING Six wheel shopping cart, really handy if you have no lift available. As new : £10 07756 733748

BOSCH WASHING Machine 9Kg 1400 spin speed eco silence in white. Model WAT28450GB Excellent condition. Buyer must collect £250 ono 07742135206

SQUARE TABLE Small square wooden table go alongside couch, solid wood, pine coloured, can be restrained, excellent condition, £25 07553954226

DIRECTORS CHAIR Traditional chair with pine legs and cream canvas seat and back. Ideal garden/conservatory, folds down for easy storage. £10 07387439004

GIFT BOXES Five lovely gift boxes or display boxes all in good condition, which can also fit into one and other. £10 07387439004

HELLO KITTY LIGHT Childs bedroom table light in pink, light changes colour five times whilst on. Lovely condition £7 07387439004

LARGE VASE Collectible West German vase number 51745, approximately 17 inches in height. No chips or marks. Nice design absolute bargain £30 07387439004

NET CURTAINS Two net curtain five yards in each one. 32" and 33" high, cream in colour £10. Also more for sale. 07387439004

PINE SHELF New solid pine shelf with moulded edges 35 inches long by 8.5 wide, still in manufacturers wrapping. £8.00 07387439004

PINE SHELF New solid wood pine shelf with moulded edges 35 inches long by 8.5 wide, still in manufacturers wrapping. £8.00 07387439004

STANDARD LAMP Over 80 years old, good condition, oak, nice design. No shade, but has bracket for the shade. Bargain. £60 07387439004

HOUSE AND HOME

ROOM THERMOSTAT Honeywell CM727 wireless 7 day programmable in original box with instructions £20 01704 201245

TUMBLE DRYER White Knight 3kg excellent condition £50. Genuine reason for sale 07488376843

BRASS horse and carriage, 2 of. With box. Brass ornaments. £12 01704 501897

BROWN LEATHER suite, 3 seater sofa, 2 seater sofa chair good condition £100 buyer collects 01704 577058

COOKER dual fuel cooker, electric oven, gas hob, white 60cm wide, good condition £140 07816906541

DRESSING TABLE pine, 4'3" L 1'4" W 2'6" D. 2 pine bedside tables 1'6" W x 2' L bargain £50. 01695 423471

FLOOR LAMP Stokers, ideal for entrance hall, or big room, must be seen, absolute bargain £90. 07884 060752

FOLDUP BED Jay-Be sleep smart single fold up bed, only used once £75ono 01704211562

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HOUSE AND HOME

TABLECLOTH SET new (in packaging) rectangular 178x229cm with six napkins, pale gold colour, was £37.50, in sale £10 01704506539

TV STAND 3 glass shelves, nice design, W31" H20" D16" vgc £20. 01704 224947

WALL LIGHTS chrome one pair one single modern very good condition from exquisite lighting Chorley. Excellent condition, bargain at £30 07376383809

WASHING MACHINE Samsung with sock compartment £300. Fish tank and cabinet £190ono. Cabinet long with shelves, black £150ono. 07562 564533

VINTAGE TEA SET Royal Ivalle Bone China pastel blue and gold filegree 12 cups saucers side plates 2 jugs 2 sugar bowls cakeplates £40 01515263574

ARTISTS PAINTINGS Crosby artists paintings of River Mersey & Liver Building & the Lakes, sold in excess £150-£200 accept £40 large & smaller 01704 573121

GOLF PAINTING Limited edition, the 18th hole & Clubhouse of S & A in 2006 for their Centenary, by Nigel Buckels 56cms x46 £100 01704 573121

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LARGE COFFEE TABLE Tempered glass top with decorative verde gris cast iron base. Suit lounge or conservatory VGC Size H16 W53 D28 inches. £85 May deliver 01704560150

SMALL COFFEE TABLE solid wood with turned legs. Nice condition medium colour. Size 80 x 45 x 48 cm high. £28 May deliver 01704560150

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FIRE FRONT Solid Brass fire front 2 piece good condition . £10 07930189074

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FIREWOOD Large bag of dry clean chopped firewood DIY off-cuts. £10.00 07961834992

BEDSIDE CABINETS Beech 19 inches wide x 16 depth x 21 high, 3 draws, excellent condition £70 07719988934

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HOUSE AND HOME

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TILES CREAM Colour brand new box's £6 per box have alot available they cost £26 per box new 07741206449

VASES TWO Off, one large silver one large purple with flowers if wanted £15 pair 07741206449

IKEA Children's table and 2 chairs in pink. Ideal for either garden or inside £10 07867 545058

MISC

ALUMINIUM CASE Large very strong aluminium case 550x220x400 ideal for many uses, with reinforced corners. Padded inside to protect contents. £29 07387439004

BEREAVEMENT ITEMS Side table, mirror, kitchen ware, folding chairs, wicker shopping basket, cds, snooker cue, two step ladders and new general gifts. From £5 07387439004

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PIANO PRELOVED Schumann Piano in excellent condition & good working order. Needs removing ASAP. Must be able to remove yourself. Contact for information 07486131930

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MANNEQUIN female adjustable height nice wooden stand ideal for display bargain £15 07773242918

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MOTHER AND BABY

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DETACHABLE TOWBAR Witter, complete with electrics, fits Ford Kuga, vgc £120. 01704 892018

MINI DIGGER trailer 9x5 Oct 2020 multi-purpose use, fully galvanised, still shiny, had no use cost £2850 bargain at £1850 07860 950553

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BRAKE DISCS brand new set of discs in box for Range Rover Discovery & Evoque. Only £220 Ormskirk 07979466002

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SPORTS EQUIPMENT

GOLF BALLS 50 mixed used but cleaned in in very good condition the lot £10 07773242918

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BOWLS Crown green bowls, two sets, with bags and one jack. One black one lignum vitae £80 may split 01704506539

EXTENDING SNOOKER cue plus in hard black case £65 01704 225512

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LEG MASTER exerciser £20 01695 724520

MARTIAL ARTS protective body armour, inc headgear, leg, arms, hands, feet, mouth and groin guard cost over £180 sell £40. 01704 569229

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CENTRE SHAFT Wilson putter with new Winn grip and Odyssey headcover all in excellent condition £25 07754888514

DARTBOARD and darts new good quality bargain £25 07773242918

TOYS AND GAMES

LEGO BUNDLE Many pieces including some from the 1960s. Skelmersdale area. £50 ono 07922883002

MEGA BLOKS 1993 Fantasy house, complete with all pieces. These bricks will work with lego aswell. Skelmersdale area. £30 ono 07922883002

SPORTS TABLE indoor plastic table H75cm, L1M, W73cm, Football, ice hockey, basket ball, snooker, green ball missing. Buyer collects. £25. 01695 573147

FOOTBALL TABLEGAME boxed unused £15. microscale electric aston martin GT thunder £15. Hornby electric train set intercity 225 £60. 0151 287 2760

OLD TOYS bought by local collector, cars, soldiers, trains etc. 07900 380051

ROCKING HORSE 1980 Vintage Rocking horse . Refurbished by me, suit child up-to 3/4 yrs, great present for child room £45 07930189074

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

CAHILL
SHEILA

Lorraine, Steven and Debbie, children of the late Sheila Cahill wish to express their sincere thanks to all relatives, friends and nurses for the kindness and sympathy shown during their recent bereavement.

Also for the cards and beautiful floral tributes.

Thanks to Reverend Martin Abrams for the comforting service and Howard's Funeral Directors for the dignified and professional funeral arrangements.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

BALL
JOHN

Margery, Alison, Gill and Christine would like to thank everyone who attended John's celebration of life service and for all the cards, flowers, messages of condolence and donations received for Queenscourt Hospice.

We would like to extend a special thanks to Dr Poon of Tarleton Group Practice and also to Rebecca (Cardiac Nurse) for their professional expertise, care and support.

Sincere thanks for the Care Concern Carers, Queenscourt Hospice nurses and sitters, and the staff on Ward 10a Southport and District General Hospital.

A special word of thanks to Joe at David Wilkinson Independent Funeral Directors for his outstanding professionalism, kindness and consideration to all the family.

Also a huge thankyou to Crème de la Crème delicatessen and the Windowbox Florist.

Those we love do not go away, They walk beside us every day, Unseen, unheard but always near, Still loved, still missed and very dear

Announcements

IN MEMORIAM

**KIRK
MICHAEL**

In Loving Memory



Michael passed away on 28th September 2020, his 86th birthday.


A loving Husband, Father and Grandfather.

We miss you more every day

Hazel and family

IN MEMORIAM

**KEELAN
THOMAS**



Beloved Husband of Bridie, much loved Dad and Grandad and loved by all his family.

A year has gone by. Remembering you is easy, we do it everyday. Missing you is the heartache that never goes away
xxxxx

Want to place a family announcement?
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DEATHS

**PREECE
CAROL
ANN**


Peacefully on
16th September 2021
Aged 82 years.

Much loved Wife of the late Colin

Dear Mum of Debbie and Andrew

Loving Grandma to Georgia, Olivia, Sophie and Naomi.

Carol will be sadly missed by all her family & friends.



**O'NEILL
FAY**

20th September 2018

Those we love don't go away
They walk beside us everyday
Unheard, unseen but always near
So loved, so missed, so very dear

Love you forever Fay
Husband John
XXX

Little Oliver sends his special big kiss and new little baby Felicity Fay say's hello Grandma and sends her love.
XXX

Funeral service and committal will take place at Southport Crematorium on Wednesday 29th September 2021 at 10.00am.

Family flowers only, please, but donations are being gratefully received by the family for Alzheimer's Research UK or Alder Hey Children's Charity.

For further enquiries please contact Moisters Funeralcare, 25A Sefton Street, Southport PR8 6SG Tel: 01704 533764

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DEATHS

**HURST
LINDA
MARY****5th September 2021**
Aged 73 Years

Much loved Wife, Sister, Auntie and Friend to many. Linda will be sadly missed by all who knew her.

Funeral service to take place at Southport Crematorium on Friday 24th September at 13.00pm. Family flowers only please. Donations if desired to Queenscourt Hospice, Town Lane, Southport, PR8 6RE or Macmillan Cancer Support, 29 Wright Street, Southport, PR9 0TL.

All enquiries to Broadbent & Seddon Funeral Directors, 33 Liverpool Road, Southport, Merseyside, PR8 4AG Tel: 01704 550055

**HARVEY
DONALD
TERENCE
JAMES
(DON)****12th September 2021**
Aged 84 Years

Passed away peacefully at home. Reunited with his soul mate Tricia. Devoted Dad to Michelle, Vicki, Donna, Justine and Emma. Wonderful Grandad to Jess, Megan and Harrison, the best GG to Lucas. Don will be sadly missed by his son in laws and friends.

Funeral service at Scarisbrick New Road Baptist Church, Southport on Wednesday 29th September at 11:15am followed by Interment at Duke Street Cemetery. Family flowers only please but donations if so desired can be sent to Southport Offshore Rescue Trust (S.O.R.T.).

Enquiries to Howard's Funeral Directors, 1-5 Roe Lane, Southport, PR9 9DR. Tel: 01704 500086.

Announcements

DEATHS

**EASTHAM
DOROTHY
'DOT'****From Burscough**
Passed away peacefully
on 14th September
at home
Aged 90 Years.

Devoted Wife of the late Ossie.

Dearly loved Mother to Michelle, John and Mark.

Treasured Grandmother to Hannah, Alex, Sophie, Shay and Great Grandmother to Hughie.

Funeral Service and Committal will take place at West Lancashire Crematorium, Burscough on Thursday 30th September 2021 at 10am.

Family flowers only please. Donations, if so desired, will be gratefully received for Queenscourt Hospice.

Forever in our thoughts.

Further enquiries please to Cookson Tyrer Funeral Directors, 2 Smithy Walk, Burscough, Lancashire L40 5UU Tel 01704 897770.

**DRAY
FRANCES
WENDY****Passed away on 2nd**
September 2021

Funeral to take place at Liverpool Road Cemetery on Monday 27th September at 11.00 am, followed by a memorial Service at Aughton Park Baptist Church at 12 Noon.

All enquiries to Broadbent & Seddon Funeral Directors 33 Liverpool Road, Southport PR8 4AG Tel 01704 550055

DEATHS

**FLEETWOOD
JOHN
ALAN****On 16th September 2021**
Peacefully
Aged 80 years

Loving Husband of Patricia. Devoted Father/Father in law to Jonathan & Janette and Emma & Michael. Pop-Pop to his beloved Grandchildren, Mia, Eli, Alice and Harriet. Dear Brother of Barbara & John. Dearest Uncle of Melanie & Paul and Tim & Latifa.

Funeral service to take place at Emmanuel Church on Monday 4th October at 12 noon. Followed by the committal at Southport Crematorium for family and invited friends only. Family flowers only by request. Donations if so desired can be made to North West Cancer Research UK

Donations and further enquires please to M.Rushton Funeral Directors, 100 Marshside Road, Southport, PR9 9TG. Tel: 01704 214118

**BOWEN
RICHARD
ALAN****Died peacefully at**
home on 11th
September 2021
Aged 79 Years.

Devoted Husband to the late Jean. Much loved Dad, Grandad and Great Grandad.

Funeral service at West Lancashire Crematorium on 27th September at 3.00pm. Family flowers only with donations if desired to Queenscourt Hospice.

All enquiries c/o FJ Gibb Funeral Directors, 6a Clarence Road, Birkdale, PR8 4BH. Tel: 01704 551666.

DEATHS

**CARR
BERYL****8th September 2021**

Died peacefully after a short illness. Devoted Wife of the late Terry. Much loved mum of Gillian and Tony. Loving Nana to all of her Grandchildren and Sister of Audrey and the late Raymond. Beryl will be greatly missed by all her family and friends.

"A Loving Entertainer & Musician"

Funeral service at Southport Crematorium on Monday 27th September at 11.00am.

Family flowers only please but donations if so desired are for Queenscourt Hospice. Enquires to Howard's Funeral Directors, 1-5 Roe Lane, Southport, PR9 9DR. Tel: 01704 500086.

**KENNETH
WALTERS****Aged 74 Years**
Ken Passed away
surrounded by his
family on Friday
10th September 2021

Beloved Husband of Margaret (Rikki). Father to Chrissy and Mark. Grandfather of Natalie. Ken will be sadly missed by all who knew him.

Funeral service will be held at west lanc's crematorium on Friday 24th September at 11am. Family flowers only and donations in lieu of flowers being collected in Ken's memory payable to Shooting Star Children's Hospices

All enquiries to Ed Southport Funeral Care Ltd 25/27 Shakespeare Street, Southport PR8 5AB Tel 01704 547274

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DEATHS

**RIGBY-GLOVER
LINDA
ANN****7th September 2021**
Peacefully
aged 56 years

Beloved Wife of Warwick.
Loving Mum of John, Luke, Lauren and Sophie.
Sister of Diane, Mathew, Karen and Stephen.
Special Nana of Sonny, Rocco, Isabelle and Mila.

Funeral service to take place at Emmanuel Church, Southport on Thursday 30th September at 12 noon followed by the interment at Liverpool Road Cemetery at 2pm.

In memory of Linda the family have requested that bright colours be worn please.

Further enquires please to M. Rushton

Funeral Directors,
100 Marshside Road,
Southport, PR9 9TG.
Tel: 01704 214118

**VENABLES
KEITH****13th September 2021**
Peacefully
Aged 86 Years
of Ormskirk.

The dearly loved Husband of Maureen. Loving Dad of Shelda and Alvan. Dear Father In Law of Perry and Tracey and devoted Grandad of Rhys, Arron, Rowan, Rhodri, Myfanwy and Bryn.

Celebration of life service at Cottage Lane Mission, Ormskirk on Thursday 30th September 2021 at 2:30pm
Donations if desired are to be gratefully received of Rescue girls in India and Kenya c/o Mrs Venables

All enquiries to Melanie Hardman at H Hardman & Co., Independent Family Funeral Directors Tel: 01695 722122/720012

DEATHS

**DIXON
MARY
MOORE****7th September 2021**
Aged 89 Years

Died peacefully in the Kingsley Nursing Home.
Loving Wife of the late Jim Dixon (Died 1968)
Much loved Mother of Jane and devoted Step Mother of John, David, Bill and their wives Lynda, Cora and Gail.
Mary was a devoted Grandmother, Nana and Nan to Lee, Jamie, Phillip, Samantha, Leanne, Melanie and the late John, Great Nana to Fern, Tyler, Isabella and Jack.

Funeral service will take place at St. James Parish Church, Birkdale on Tuesday 28th September at 11:30am followed by private burial at Anfield Cemetery. Family flowers only by request but donations if so desired in memory of Mary to Cancer Research UK and or Alzheimer's Society.

Enquiries to Howard's Funeral Directors, 1-5 Roe Lane, Southport, PR9 9DR.
Tel: 01704 500086.

**FORMBY
JOHN****September 12th 2021**
Peacefully in hospital
Aged 98 Years

Much-loved Husband to the late Win. Loving Dad to David, Elaine, Jackie and John.
Will be sadly missed by all his Grandchildren, Great Grandchildren and all his family and friends.

Requiem mass at Holy Family Church, Ince Blundell on Wednesday, 29th September at 12 noon. Followed by burial in the churchyard.

Family flowers only please, donations if desired to British Heart Foundation

C/O Coyne Bros Funeral Directors, 3 Old Mill Lane, Formby L37 3PE
Tel: 01704 873899

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DEATHS

**JONES
DOREEN****Passed away peacefully at home**
on 8th September 2021
Aged 91 Years

Devoted Wife to Leonard. Dearly loved Mother to Gaynor and Shirley and Mother In Law to Trevor. Treasured Grandmother to Rachel and Katie and Great Grandmother to Oliver. Dear Sister to Alberta and Aunt to Stephen, Andrea, Neil, Janice, Ian, Gary and Paul.

Funeral service to take place at Southport Crematorium on 4th October 2021 at 11.00am.

Family flowers only please, donations if desired will be gratefully received for Garston Animal Rescue.

Death leaves a heartache no one can heal, love leaves a memory no one can steal.

Further enquiries to Moisters Funeralcare, 8 Station Road, Ainsdale PR8 3HS
Tel: 01704 575282

DEATHS

**ANDERSON
MARGARET
MARY****on 9th September 2021**
Fell asleep at Westcliffe Manor Nursing Home
Aged 100 Years

Margaret will be sadly missed by her Children, Grandchildren and Great Grandchildren.

The funeral will be at St. Joseph's Catholic Church, Birkdale at 12.00 on Friday 1st October. Followed by an interment at Sacred Heart Cemetery at 1pm. Family flowers only please but donations if desired in Margaret's memory payable to Asthma UK.

Care of Ed Southport Funeral Care Ltd
25/27 Shakespeare Street, Southport PR8 5AB
Tel 01704 547274

DEATHS

**LATHAM
GEORGE****6th September 2021**
Peacefully
Aged 86 Years

The dearly loved Husband of Vivienne and dear family member to Vivienne's children Anne, Andrew, Pamela and their partners Simon, Caroline and Tim. Grandfather George to Ben, Harriet, Matthew, John, Lilymay and Meredith. Loving Brother to Sheila and the late Charles, Sister in law Evelyn and his Nieces and Nephews. George will be dearly missed by all his family and friends.

Funeral service at West Lancashire Crematorium on Tuesday 28th September 2021 at 11:00am. Family flowers only please, donations if desired for the R.N.L.I.

All enquiries to Melanie Hardman at H Hardman & Co., Independent Family Funeral Directors Tel:- 01695 722122/720012

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DW DAVID WILKINSON

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Apprenticeship

As part of this role the successful candidate will be expected to work towards completing the apprenticeship framework.

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Start Date: 01/11/2021

Salary: From £6,983 (actual per annum) in line with Apprentice Scale dependent on age (Fixed Term for 1 year)

Application packs can be requested by calling Mrs Smalley on 01695 722931 or by email from:

csmalley@moorside-academy.co.uk

Please note CVs will not be considered.

Closing Date: Friday 8th October 2021 12pm.

Interviews: Tuesday 19th October 2021

The school is committed to safer recruitment practice and pre-employment checks will be undertaken before any appointment is confirmed. This post is subject to an enhanced disclosure from the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS)

Arranmore Park Rest Home

Burscough, L40 7RQ

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Interviews scheduled for Thursday 14 October 2021

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BURSCOUGH BRIDGE

- Trent Close, Wappers Moss Close, Wappers Moss Lane, Weaver Avenue

DIGMOOR

- Bearcroft, Beechwood Court

HOLLAND MOOR

- Back Lane, Barnfield Drive, Charnock, Colinton, Limefield Drive, Ormskirk Road

TAWD BRIDGE

- Crossfield Road, Daniels Lane, Digmoor Drive, Hurlston Avenue, Ormskirk Road, Scarth Park, Top Acre Road

HALSALL

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HURLSTON GREEN

- Moorfield Lane, Smithy Lane

MAWDESLEY SOUTH

- Bradshaw Lane, Dark Lane, Ridley Lane

OLD SKELMERSDALE

- Greenway Close, Millbrook Close, Millrose Close, Neverstitch Close, Palm Court, School Lane, Sycamore Drive, Thurston

ORMSKIRK

- Charlesbye Avenue, Charlesbye Close, Dark Lane, Delph Top, Greetby Hill, Nursery Avenue, Pendle Drive, Quarry Mount

- Brighthouse Close, Cottage Close, Cottage Lane, Cottage Mews, County Road, Garnett Green, Kinloch Way, Rothwell Close, The Orchard

NEWBURGH

- Ash Brow, Clovelly Drive, Cobbs Brow Lane, Doe Meadow, Ranleigh Drive, Smithy Brow, The Hawthorns
- Acrefield, Doe Meadow, Pine Close, Tabbys Nook, Woodrow Drive

HOLMESWOOD

- Holmeswood Road, Smithy Lane

RUFFORD

- Brick Kiln Lane, Hesketh Green, New Road, Oasis Close, Sluice Lane, The Hawthorns, Willow Green

RUFFORD PARK

- Longshaw Close, Rufford Park Lane, Springwood Drive

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- Eskbrook, Eskdale
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- Dayfield, Highgate Road, Mayfield Road, Mill Lane, Millers Nook, Stanley Road
- Abbey Close, Beacon View Drive, Bridgehall Drive, Dean Close, Dingle Road, Grasmere Avenue, Mill Lane, Rivington Drive, Thirlmere Avenue, Tithebarn Street

RUFF LANE

- Bewcastle Drive, Ruff Lane, St. James Close, Varlian Close, Vicarage Close, Vicarage Lane, Wellfield Lane, Whiteleys Lane, Whiteleys Lane

WESTHEAD

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3rd Prize	£50	081702Mr/Ms C Smith
		003391Mr F J Rogers
4th Prize	£10	009127, 069204, 034891, 072549 & 061380	

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PUBLIC NOTICES

West Lancashire Borough Council Planning (Listed Buildings & Conservation Areas) Act 1990 Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order 2015 - Article 15

APPLICATION(S) FOR PLANNING PERMISSION

2021/1046/FUL Full application for demolition of existing commercial building and erection of 60 no. residential dwellings with new access, car parking, landscaping and other associated works at Former Universal Bulk Handling Ltd, Orrell Lane, Burscough

2021/1052/LBC Listed Building Consent - Remove/demolish 2 existing metal sheds, and erection of replacement timber garden shed at Doe House, Tabbys Nook, Newburgh

The application affects a Conservation Area.

2021/1052/LBC Listed Building Consent - Remove/demolish 2 existing metal sheds, and erection of replacement timber garden shed at Doe House, Tabbys Nook, Newburgh

The application affects a Listed Building.

2021/1054/FUL Front and rear dormer house extensions, including first floor balconies, wall cladding, new chimneys and internal alterations at Green Acre, Back Lane, Newburgh

The application affects a Conservation Area.

2021/1084/LBC Listed Building Consent - Installation of external alarm box at 182 Ormskirk Road, Up Holland

The application affects a Listed Building.

The applications are available for viewing on the Council's website www.westlancs.gov.uk/planning. If it is not possible for you to view the application via the Council's website, please contact the office to discuss alternative arrangements for viewing the application. If you wish to comment on the proposal you can do so via the Council's website, by e-mail to plan.apps@westlancs.gov.uk or in writing to Development, Heritage & Environment Manager, 52 Derby Street, Ormskirk, but these must be received within 24 days of the date of this notice quoting the application number.

Applications for Minor Commercial and Householder Development

If an appeal is made against a decision to refuse to grant planning permission, and that appeal proceeds under the written representations procedure, any representations made to the Council will be passed to the Secretary of State and there will be no opportunity to make further representations.

How information about you will be used

Personal data provided by you will be used as part of the Council's statutory planning duties. Some of this information, including your name and address, will be published. Further information about this is available online at www.westlancs.gov.uk/planning and hard copies are available on request

Heidi McDougall BS c (Hons), MBA Dated: 22/09/2021
Corporate Director of Place & Community PDNOT1157

PUBLIC NOTICES

LANCASHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL (U1037 VICARAGE LANE, WESTHEAD, WEST LANCASHIRE BOROUGH)

(TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF THROUGH TRAFFIC) ORDER 2021

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Lancashire County Council have made an Order under Section 14(1) (a) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, as amended, the effect of which will be to temporarily prohibit traffic on the roads set out in this notice.

1. No person shall cause any motor vehicle to proceed over that length of U1037 Vicarage Lane, Westhead from U1040 Wellfield Lane, Westhead for a distance of 320m in an Easterly direction.
2. Nothing in this order shall apply to persons engaged in the carrying out of the works.
3. The prohibition will be operative from 0800 hours on Monday 4th October 2021 until 1700 hours on Wednesday 6th October 2021 or until completion of the works within this period. **Access for residents within the closure area will be maintained whenever and wherever possible.**
4. An alternative route for vehicular traffic affected by the closure is via: U1040 Wellfield Lane, Westhead - U4195 Whiteleys Lane, Westhead - U1044 School Lane, Westhead and vice versa.

The temporary prohibition is necessary to allow blockage clearance works to be carried out by MJ Quinn on behalf of BT.

Authority given for this Order to be made:
Peter Bell, Regulation and Enforcement Manager, Highways and Transport, 0300 123 6780 [Ref: HR/IT/31935/EW]

www.lancashire.gov.uk

Lancashire County Council

LANCASHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL (C124 SANDY LANE, AUGHTON AND C124 MICKERING LANE, AUGHTON, WEST LANCASHIRE BOROUGH) (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF THROUGH TRAFFIC) ORDER 2021

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Lancashire County Council have made an Order under Section 14(1) (a) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, as amended, the effect of which will be to temporarily prohibit traffic on the roads set out in this notice.

1. No person shall cause any motor vehicle to proceed over the following lengths of highway in the West Lancashire Borough:-
i. C124 Sandy Lane, Aughton from C117 Bold Lane, Aughton to C124 Mickering Lane, Aughton.
ii. C124 Mickering Lane, Aughton from C124 Sandy Lane, Aughton for a distance of 525m in a South Easterly direction.
2. Nothing in this order shall apply to persons engaged in the carrying out of the works.
3. The prohibition will be operative from 0900 hours on Monday 4th October 2021, until 1530 hours on Wednesday 6th October 2021 or until completion of the works within this period. **Access will be maintained whenever and wherever possible.**
4. An alternative route for vehicular traffic affected by the closure is via: C117 Bold Lane, Aughton - C117 Town Green Lane, Aughton - B5197 Prescot Road, South of Aughton and vice versa.

The temporary prohibition is necessary to enable works to replace a telegraph pole to be carried out by MJ Quinn on behalf of BT.

Authority given for this Order to be made:
Peter Bell, Regulation and Enforcement Manager, Highways and Transport, 0300 123 6780 [Ref: HR/IT/32139/EW]

www.lancashire.gov.uk/vacancies

Lancashire County Council

LANCASHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL (B5246 STATION ROAD, RUFFORD, WEST LANCASHIRE BOROUGH)

(TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF THROUGH TRAFFIC) ORDER 2021

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Lancashire County Council have made an Order under Section 14(1) (a) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, as amended, the effect of which will be to temporarily prohibit traffic on the roads set out in this notice.

1. No person shall cause any motor vehicle or cycle to proceed over that length of B5246 Station Road, Rufford from a point 30m West of its junction with X9658 Little Meadow Lane, Mawdesley for a distance of 90m in a Westerly direction.
2. Nothing in this order shall apply to persons engaged in the carrying out of the works.
3. The prohibition will be operative from 2330 hours on Saturday 9th October 2021 until 2000 hours on Sunday 10th October 2021 or until completion of the works within this period.
4. An alternative route for vehicular traffic affected by the closure is via:-
B5246 Station Road, Rufford (into Chorley Borough) - B5246 Meadow Lane, Mawdesley - B5246 Rufford Road, Mawdesley - B5246 Rufford Road, Bispham - B5246 Hall Lane, Bispham (into West Lancashire Borough) - B5246 Robin Lane, Bispham - B5246 Robin Lane, Hilldale - B5246 Chorley Road, Hilldale - B5246 Chorley Road, Parbold - B5246 Lancaster Lane, Parbold - A5209 Alder Lane, Parbold - A5209 Ash Brow, Newburgh - A5209 Course Lane, Newburgh - A5209 Lowry Hill Lane, Latham - A5209 Briars Lane, Latham - A5209 Briars Lane, Burscough - A5209 Square Lane, Burscough - A59 Liverpool Road South, Burscough - A59 Liverpool Road North, Burscough - A59 Moss Lane, Burscough - A59 Causeway Lane, Rufford - A59 Liverpool Road, Rufford - B5246 Diamond Jubilee Road, Rufford - B5246 Station Road, Rufford and vice versa.

The temporary prohibition is necessary to allow rail corrosion monitoring and railway sleeper replacement works to be carried out by Centurion Site Services on behalf of Network Rail.

Authority given for this Order to be made:
Peter Bell, Regulation and Enforcement Manager, Highways and Transport, 0300 123 6780 [Ref: HR/IT/31936/EW]

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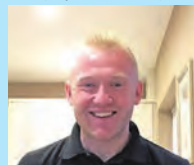
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Thanks a million! MINIs might be everywhere, but drive one before you knock it!



A MILLION MINIs. It's a massive achievement, by any measure, but it makes the car's original impact feel less momentous.

That's not the overall figure for how many of BMW's style-conscious baby have rolled off the production lines – that's 5.1 million and counting, and fast closing in on the 5.3 million figure racked up by its illustrious predecessor – but rather, for how many UK buyers have snapped one up since it was introduced just over 20 years ago. Nowadays you don't have to walk far through any moderately-sized town before you'll see one, so its ubiquity has rendered it unremarkable. Yet the fact it's even reached that stage is reflects just how much of an impact it had.

Certainly, it was no means a given when the MINI was introduced that the odds would be on its side. BMW had already bankrolled one superb British car, the Rover 75, and another, the reinvented Range Rover, was on the way, but it'd also burned through cash and goodwill in its ill-fated attempt to turn around Rover, ultimately selling it off for – and I'm not making this up – a tenner. As a result of all the upheaval the MINI arrived nearly a year later than planned, and plenty of other carmakers had already introduced their own retro-themed hatchbacks. Take a bow, Chrysler PT Cruiser.

The MINI also arrived with its own baggage, including an engine borrowed from Chrysler that was okay but hardly brilliant, a confusingly-

named options list named after various spices, and a long line of people – me included – who were happy to decry it was sufficiently 'Mini' enough. The latter of which wasn't helped when the plus-sized Countryman made it into production, and the neatly shrunk MINI Rocketman concept car didn't. It's also had a few false starts along the way, notably the bizarre attempts to give it sporting credentials it didn't need in the MINI Roadster and Coupé.

But here's the rub – even the 'bad' MINIs are anything but, and when the good ones arrived back in 2001 people were genuinely blown away by how something that looked as good as the original R53-generation model did could also outhandle just about everything else on offer at the time, and have an interior that thrived on attention to detail. Only when you remember what it was up against at the time – the Peugeot 206, and if you're insisting on being a fashion victim, the PT Cruiser – and suddenly you'll remember that the MINI was streets ahead, despite arriving late to the party.

Sure, it wasn't (and still isn't) the roomiest contender for your cash, but precisely no one cared because it captured the mood of the moment, and crucially when all the hype died down, people kept on buying it. Without the MINI there would be no Fiat 500, and by extension of both cars making premium-priced small cars trendy there wouldn't have been an Audi A1 or Vauxhall Adam either.

Yes, I know that these days MINIs are everywhere, the early ones can be picked up for a couple of hundred quid and that far too many of them are used as company cars by estate agents, but a million people can't be wrong.

Drive one before you knock it.

David Simister is the editor of Classic Car Weekly

A NEW all-electric Mercedes model is available to order now, with the first examples to arrive in the north west at the end of the year. The EQS is a luxury saloon which comes equipped with a 107.8kWh battery, giving it the equivalent of 333bhp, a range of 453 miles and the ability to charge up from ten per cent to 80 per cent of its range in 31 minutes. Prices will start at £99,995 for the 450+ AMG Line model, which will also come with a three-year subscription a Mercedes account, allowing you to access many public charging points.



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